



Copiah-Lincoln
Community College
Natchez Campus

N-SIGHTS

Volume XVII, No. 1

Bethline Site

Wednesday, October 18, 1989

Washington Site

Natchez, MS 39120

Literary Celebration to premiere in June

By Kelley Crook

A unique educational event, sponsored by the Natchez campus of Copiah-Lincoln Community College, will premiere in Natchez on June 7, 8, and 9, 1990.

Called the Natchez Literary Celebration, the event will be headquartered at The Natchez Fola Hotel and will feature scholarly lectures, tours, meals and entertainment. All will focus on the event's theme, "The Natchez Trace: Its Literary Legacy."

The celebration is the brainchild of Carolyn Vance Smith, instructor of English and journalism and director of public relations at Co-Lin Natchez. "It is based on similar literary symposia I have attended," she said. "Such a thing seems a natural for Natchez because of the city's rich history of educational institutions and events."

The literary event will celebrate the establishment of America's newest park, the Natchez National Historical Park, Smith said.

It will also bring to Natchez a new educational event, promote tourism and increase community awareness of Co-Lin's academic strength, leadership ability and community-mindedness, she said.

All proceeds will benefit the Natchez National Historical Park Foundation, Smith said.

The event's lecturers are "superstars among intelligentsia," Smith said. They include Dr. Robert V. Remini of the University of Illinois, the world's foremost authority on Andrew Jackson, and Dr. Margaret Walker Alexander of Jackson, an expert on the Natchez-born author, Richard Wright.

In addition to lectures, the Natchez Literary Celebration will include a tour of the southern end of the Natchez Trace.

Social events will include an evening party at historic Melrose, an autograph party, picnic on the Natchez Bluffs, reception at Stanton Hall and concluding banquet. Ticket sales will be limited, Smith said. The cost per ticket, which includes all lectures, tours, two meals, refreshments, the autograph party and entertainment, is \$200. Tickets for individual events may be purchased for prices varying from \$10 to \$50.

Co-chairmen of the literary festival with Smith are Becky Junkin Holloway, instructor of hotel and restaurant management technology, and Kenneth Taylor, instructor of accounting and economics.

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Copiah-Lincoln
Community College
Natchez Campus



N-SIGHTS

Volume XVII, No. 2

Beltline Site

Monday, December 4, 1989

Washington Site

Natchez, MS 39120

FOR LITERARY CELEBRATION

Two cost-cutting measures available for students, faculty

By Kelley Crook

Two cost-cutting measures are available for Co-Lin Natchez students and faculty who want to attend "The Natchez Trace: Its Literary Legacy" celebration, said Carolyn Vance Smith, English instructor and celebration co-chairman.

The event will take place June 7-9, 1990, with all lectures at The Natchez Eola Hotel.

A limited number of free tickets will be available in February 1990, and in addition, volunteers are sought to work with the festival. "These volunteers will get to enjoy much of the event at no cost," Smith said.

Free tickets will be available on a first-come, first-served basis during February in the admissions office at Co-Lin's Washington Site, Smith said.

"We do not want the Co-Lin Natchez family to stay away from the celebration because of cost," she said.

Students will be able to choose one lecture to attend free of charge, up to six free tickets per lecture, she said. Faculty and staff may also choose any one lecture free of charge.

"We hope many at Co-Lin Natchez will be able to buy other segments of the program," Smith said. "We have priced the event several different ways in order to accommodate everyone's time and pocket-book."

The price for the full package is \$200 per person. This price includes all 10 lectures, refreshment breaks, a picnic, a banquet with a reading by Eudora Welty, a tour of the Natchez Trace and other educational and social events.

The per-day package ticket is priced at \$90 per person. It includes all events on one of three days: Thursday, Friday or Saturday, June 7-9, 1990.

A per-lecture ticket is \$15 per person. This price does not include the Saturday night banquet program.

Other individual ticket prices range from \$10 for "The Robber Bridegroom" to \$35 for the banquet and reading by Eudora Welty.

"It is important when ordering full package or per-day package tickets to specify whether you will provide your own transportation or require bus transportation," Smith said. "You must also specify which day's ticket you wish to purchase."

Volunteer help from the faculty, staff and student body is needed to help ensure the festival's success, Smith said.

"Help is needed for mail-outs, ticket-taking, bookshop sales, hosts and hostesses for all events, driving and food preparation," she said.

Along with helping the literary festival to flow smoothly, volunteers will get the chance to "rub elbows" with the famed authors and lecturers, Smith said.

Those interested in offering their services should contact Smith or her co-chairmen, Becky Junkin Holloway, instructor of Hotel-Motel Restaurant Management Technology, and Kenneth Taylor, accounting and economics instructor.

"To order tickets or to obtain more information, pick up a brochure in the main office at both Washington and Beltline sites," Smith said. "Or, you can call 442-9111, 442-7341 or 800-647-6742 or write Natchez Literary Celebration, P.O. Box 2282, Natchez, MS 39121."

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Welty, others to lead Co-Lin literary event

By Kelley Crook

Famed Mississippi author Eudora Welty and a host of other American writers and scholars will lead a three-day symposium in Natchez in June 1990 called "The Natchez Trace: Its Literary Legacy."

This first Natchez Literary Celebration, sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez, will take place June 7-9, 1990.

The event will provide 10 scholarly lectures or panel discussions as well as numerous educational and social events.

Director of proceedings will be William Winter of Jackson, former governor of Mississippi and longtime president of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History's board of trustees.

The literary symposium's lineup of experts are:

- Eudora Welty of Jackson, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of



WINTER



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JAMES

eight novels and dozens of short stories. Welty will read from her story "A Worn Path," set on the Trace, at the event's concluding banquet.

- Dr. D. Clayton James of The Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Va. James is a Natchez native and author of *Antebellum Natchez*. He is also an authority on Douglas MacArthur.

- His topic is "The Role of the Natchez Trace in the Development of the Nation."

- Dr. Robert V. Remini of the University of Illinois. Remini is the world's foremost authority on

Andrew Jackson. He will speak on "Andrew Jackson's Adventures on the Natchez Trace."

- Dr. John D. W. Guice of The University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg. Guice is author of numerous books and articles and is currently writing a definitive book on the Natchez Trace. His topic is "A Trace of Violence?"

- Jack Elliott of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. Elliott determined the exact size of the Fort of Natchez in 1988. He will speak on "The Fort of Natchez and the Beginning of the Natchez Trace."

- Dr. Kit Carter of Mississippi University for Women, Columbus, and Dr. Robert Jenkins of Mississippi State University, Starkville. Both are on the board of The Mississippi Historical Society and are frequent lecturers and contributors to scholarly journals. Their topic is "Minorities and Their Use of the Natchez Trace."

- Dr. Douglas Lewis of the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. Lewis is a member of the National Trust for Historical Places and is the author of more than 150 scholarly articles and

books. His topic is "The Trace of the Old Southwest in 'The Birds of America'." J. J. Audubon's Drawings and Writings from the Natchez District."

- Dale Smith, chief interpreter of the Natchez Trace Parkway, The National Park Service, Tupelo. Smith will present a slide show about the Parkway entitled "The Natchez Trace: A Treasure for America."

- Dr. Don H. Doyle of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn. Doyle is a noted author of American history. He will speak on "The Mississippi Frontier in Faulkner's Fiction and in Fact."

- Dr. Margaret Walker Alexander, former professor at Jackson State University, Jackson. She wrote *Jubilee* and is currently on a national book tour promoting her book *Richard Wright: Daemonic Genius*. Walker's topic is "Natchez in Southern American Literature with Emphasis on Richard Wright."

- Dr. Michael Kreyling of Vanderbilt, Dr. Suzanne Marks of Millsaps College, Jackson, and Dr. Peggy W. Frenshaw of USM. All are well-known authorities on

Eudora Welty and have been published widely. They will speak on "The Natchez Trace in Eudora Welty's Fiction."

In addition to lectures, the literary event will offer a tour of the southern end of the Natchez Trace.

Featured stops are at the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians with a slide presentation; Emerald Mound; Brandon Hall; and Mount Locust, where refreshments and live demonstrations of historical everyday activities will be provided.

Other events include performances of Welty's "The Robber Bridegroom" by the Natchez Little Theatre, a picnic on the bluff, receptions at Rosalie, Melrose and Stanton Hall and an autograph party for all lectures.

The celebration is being presented in co-operation with the Natchez National Historical Park Foundation, the Historic Natchez Foundation, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the National Park Service, the Natchez Trace Parkway Association, the Natchez Little Theatre, the Judge George W. Armstrong Library, the Natchez Historical Society, the Natchez Hotel and Restaurant Association, the Natchez Pilgrimage Tours and other groups.

Further information may be obtained by contacting the festival's co-chairmen, Carolyn Vance Smith, Becky Junkin Holloway and Kenneth Taylor, all instructors at Co-Lin Natchez.

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The Natchez

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 1990

Vol. 126, No. 18

Serving Natchez, Vidalia

Humanities grant helps fund literary festival

Literary celebration focuses on Trace

By JOAN GANDY
The Natchez Democrat

NATCHEZ — A Mississippi Humanities Council grant of nearly \$10,000 will help to fund the first Natchez Literary Celebration.

The grant of \$9,947, the largest grant awarded by the state council for the fiscal year, will fund in part some of the costs for lecturers, some promotional expenses and some supplies, said Carolyn Vance Smith, one of three co-chairmen of the event.

Scheduled for June 7-9 in Natchez and sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, the literary fest will bring together historians, literary scholars and writers who will weave from their works a new look at the old Natchez Trace.

"With Natchez as the setting, the literary festival will be enlivened by the historical background of the city that stands at one end of the old road to Tennessee," said Smith, an English instructor at Co-Lin's Natchez campus.

The Natchez Trace, first an Indian foot path, extends about 550 miles

between Natchez and Nashville, Tenn., and is now a national parkway that is expected to be completed in the 1990s.

Smith said the festival, promoted as "The Natchez Trace: Its Literary Legacy," is expected to draw a capacity crowd of about 350 at The Natchez Eola Hotel, where the programs will be presented during the three-day celebration.

Ticket prices range from \$10, \$15 and \$35 for single events on the program to \$200 for the full package, which includes 10 lectures, some meals, tours, entertainment and transportation to events held away from the hotel.

Profits from the festival will benefit the Natchez National Historical Park Foundation.

"We've gotten our first orders for full-package tickets," Smith said Saturday. "And as a result of an Associated Press story that has run all over the country, we have had numerous inquiries from faraway places."

Brochures and posters were mailed recently to many Natchez-area residents as well as to college and university English and history instructors across the country.

About 1,000 posters have gone out
See GRANT, Page 10A

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Grant

Continued from Page 1A

to libraries, book stores and English departments. Smith's volunteer assistants will mail news releases this week to magazines and travel agencies, and Natchez Pilgrimage Tour officials are sending information to tour brokers nationwide.

"These are some of the marketing things going on," Smith said. "We are under way organizing major committees headed by Co-Lin faculty, who are calling on students and friends to help."

The other co-chairmen of the festival are Becky Junkin and Kenneth Taylor, also Co-Lin instructors.

Response to calls for help have been "overwhelming," Smith said, as she began to list some of the events and their sponsors.

■ Thursday (June 7) at noon the Natchez Historical Society will host a luncheon for literary festival speakers and VIP guests.

■ Mississippi Society Daughters of the American Revolution, owners of antebellum Rosalie, will host an open house and free tours for ticketed festival participants on Thursday, the day the house will have its dedication as a National Historic Landmark.

■ Presentation of "The Robber Bridegroom," a musical based on a novella by Eudora Welty, is one of the entertainment events during the fest. Natchez Little Theatre members are donating their time, charging the festival only the costs of production.

■ On Friday (June 8), the Natchez Garden Club will host a luncheon for

"With Natchez as the setting, the literary festival will be enlivened by the historical background of the city that stands at one end of the old road to Tennessee."

— Carolyn Vance Smith
program coordinator

lecturers and VIP guests at Magnolia Hall.

■ Friday afternoon the National Park Service will have guides, lecturers, and craft demonstrations at Mount Locust on the Natchez Trace and a guide at Emerald Mound, located near the Trace.

■ Also on Friday afternoon, the Dieffenthal family, owners of Brandon Hall, will open that house for tours. Brandon Hall is located near the Trace.

■ At the same time, Jim Barnett, site director at Grand Village of the Natchez Indians, will present every half hour a slide show on how Indians relate to the Trace.

■ Deposit Guaranty National Bank will host dignitaries and festival lecturers for dinner at Longwood following the Melrose reception on Friday.

■ The Pilgrimage Garden Club will provide free tours of Stanton Hall Saturday (June 9) and also will provide free bed-and-breakfast accommodations for the guest speakers.

One of the many highlights of the literary fest will be Friday at 6:30 p.m., when Park Service officials will dedicate Melrose formally as a part of the Natchez National Historical Park.

"That event alone is expected to bring many dignitaries to Natchez and to draw probably 500 to 1,000 people," Smith said.

"We understand both our senators are coming, maybe Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan and the (Mississippi) governor. The Mississippi Symphony will play at the reception there."

Corporate gifts will make possible many of the "extras," she said.

Some of the corporations already committed to gifts are Trustmark Bank of Mississippi, Chevron Inc., United Mississippi Bank, Britton & Kooz First National Bank, International Paper, Fidelity Tire Manufacturing Co., Mississippi Power & Light Co. and the Natchez Community Concert Association.

The Natchez Democrat will host VIPs and lecturers Saturday for lunch at King's Tavern.

On Saturday, Co-Lin, the Historic Natchez Foundation and the Natchez Historical Society will sponsor dedication of a historical marker commemorating the life and work of author and Natchez native Richard Wright. The three sponsoring organizations purchased the marker, which cost about \$1,000, Smith said.

"We're on to something huge," Smith said. "I just hope Natchez people will get their tickets before they are all sold."

Tickets and more information are available by writing to Natchez Literary Celebration, Co-Lin, P.O. Box 2282, Natchez, Miss. 39121.

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The Natchez Literary Celebration

Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez Campus P.O. Box 2282 Natchez, MS 39121

DON'T BE LEFT OUT!!!

February 16, 1990

FEBRUARY'S FLYING!!!

To: All Personnel to know and to announce to students

From: Carolyn Vance Smith, Co-chairman, NLC

Re: Ticket information

Becky Holloway, Ken Taylor, and I want all members of the Co-Lin Natchez family to be a big part of the first-ever Natchez Literary Celebration.

During the month of February (or until all tickets are gone), we are offering students a special deal. For 10 lectures, which will take place at The Natchez Bala Hotel on Thursday morning through Saturday afternoon, June 7-9, students are offered free seats. The lecture tickets are usually \$15 each, but six seats per lecture are being held for Co-Lin Natchez students, free of charge.

For a student to reserve a seat, he or she should call or go by the Admissions Office at the Washington Site and leave his or her name and telephone number. Late this spring we'll double-check with the students to see if their plans are firm. Tickets will be picked up at the Bala lobby the day of the lecture chosen. Students should realize that if their plans change, they should notify the Admissions Office so that the person next on the waiting list can get the seat.

A list of the lecture topics, lecturers, dates, and times is in "This Week" for Jan. 29. Brochures also list all lectures. These are available from the co-chairmen.

Other events during the NLC are also important, and tickets are reduced or free. They include "The Robber Bridegroom," a musical based on Eudora Welty's novella, which will be performed by The Natchez Little Theatre on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, June 7-9, at 8:45 p.m. Plans now are for Eudora Welty to be in the audience Saturday, June 9. These tickets are \$10 for everybody else, but only \$7 for Co-Lin Natchez "family" members. Reservations may be made by paying the fee to one of the co-chairmen.

The Melrose dedication ceremony at 6:30 p.m., Friday, June 8, will feature VIPs from Washington, D. C., as well as a concert by the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra. Following the ceremony, a tour of the mansion and a reception with refreshments will take place. The entire event is free and open to the public.

Tickets for the Friday afternoon tour of the Natchez Trace and the Saturday evening reception, banquet, and reading by Miss Welty are \$35 each.

Students, faculty, and staff who wish to volunteer to work at events (take up tickets, etc.) will be admitted free to the events. (The picnic on Thursday night and the banquet on Saturday night are not free but will be at reduced price to volunteer workers.)

DON'T BE LEFT OUT! MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW!

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Wolf Tales



Training tomorrow's
journalist today

Monday,
February 5, 1990
WOLF TALES

Three-day symposium . . .

Natchez Trace literary festival features Welty, Walker, others

By Kelley Crook

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The event will provide 10 scholarly lectures or panel discussions as well as numerous educational and social events.

Director of proceedings will be William Winter of Jackson, former governor of Mississippi and long-time president of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History's board of trustees.

The literary symposium's lineup of experts is:

- Eudora Welty of Jackson, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of eight novels and dozens of short stories. Welty will read from her story "A Worn Path," set on the Trace, at the event's concluding banquet.

- Dr. D. Clayton James of The Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Va. James is a Natchez native and author of *Antebellum Natchez*. He is also an authority on Douglas MacArthur.

His topic is "The Role of the Natchez Trace in the Development of the Nation."

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currently writing a definitive book on the Natchez Trace. His topic is "A Trace of Violence?"

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- Dr. Kit Carter of Mississippi University for Women, Columbus, and Dr. Robert Jenkins of Mississippi State University, Starkville. Both are on the board of The Mississippi Historical Society and are frequent lecturers and contributors to scholarly journals. Their topic is "Minorities and Their Use of the Natchez Trace."

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Featured stops are at the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians with a slide presentation; Emerald Mound; Brandon Hall; and Mount Locust, where refreshments and live demonstrations of historical everyday activities will be provided.

Other events include performances of Welty's "The Robber Bridegroom" by the Natchez Little Theatre, a picnic on the bluff, receptions at Rosalie, Melrose and Stanton Hall and an autograph party for all lecturers.

The celebration is being presented in co-operation with the Natchez National Historical Park Foundation, the Historic Natchez Foundation, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the National Park Service, the Natchez Trace Parkway Association, the Natchez Little Theatre, the Judge George W. Armstrong Library, the Natchez Historical Society, the Natchez Hotel and Restaurant Association, the Natchez Pilgrimage Tours and other groups.

Further information may be obtained by contacting the festival's co-chairmen, Carolyn Vance Smith, Becky Junkin Holloway and Kenneth Taylor, all instructors at Co-Lan Natchez.

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The Natchez Literary Celebration

Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez Campus P.O. Box 2282 Natchez, MS 39121

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February 21, 1990

TO: ALL CO-LIN PERSONNEL
FROM: CAROLYN VANCE SMITH, CO-CHAIRMAN OF NLC
RE: TICKETS - FREE AND OTHERWISE

Ken Taylor, Becky Holloway, and I want you to be a prominent part of the first-ever Natchez Literary Celebration June 7-9, 1990.

For your information, here are ways you can participate, according to your desires:

- 1) Buy the whole ticket for 10 lectures, a picnic, a banquet, three receptions, a guided tour of The Natchez Trace, a performance of The Little Theatre's "The Robber Bridegroom," three dedications (Melrose, Rosalie, and a historic marker honoring Richard Wright on the Bluff), and an after-dinner reading by Eudora Welty. Full-package ticket costs \$200. Buy from Ken.
- 2) Buy a per-day package for June 7, 8, or 9 for all lectures and other events that day. Per-day package is \$90. Buy from Ken.
- 3) Buy a per-event ticket. All lectures (except Miss Welty's reading after dinner on June 9) are \$15 each. Rosalie picnic is \$15. Guided tour of The Natchez Trace and the reception-dinner-reading at Stanton Hall are \$35 each. "The Robber Bridegroom" is \$10 for everybody else, \$7 for Co-Lin family members. Buy everything from Ken.
- 4) Sign up for one free lecture ticket of your choice. All faculty, administrators, and staff members are invited to choose one lecture free. Sign up in the Admissions Office at Washington.
- 5) Volunteer to "work" at an event, doing something like ushering. You'll already be there and can get in free. These spots are limited, of course. First-come, first-served. Talk to Ken, Becky, or me.
- 6) The Melrose dedication ceremonies at 6:30 p.m., Friday, June 8, are free to the public, including all of us at Co-Lin, of course. During this seated event, we'll listen to Vipe talk about the magnitude of the national park in Natchez and listen to a concert by the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra. Following the ceremony will be an open house with refreshments, all free.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO TELL STUDENTS ABOUT FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE TICKETS FOR THEM, AVAILABLE IN THE ADMISSIONS OFFICE AT WASHINGTON. Thanks!



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MCGEHEE AND SMITH COLLABORATE ON LITERARY DESIGN

Among the many volunteers assisting with the first-ever Natchez Literary Celebration, sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez, are two award-winning Southwest Mississippi artists.

They are Prudence Owens McGehee of Meadville, instructor of art at Co-Lin Natchez, and William M. Smith, Jr., 17, son of Marion and Carolyn Vance Smith of Natchez and a 12th-grader at The McCallie School, Chattanooga, Tenn.

McGehee and Smith collaborated on the layout and design of the literary event's brochures, posters, tickets, receipts and name tags.

"I wanted the brochure and poster to be eye-catching," McGehee said. "I also wanted to keep costs down by having the registration form built into the brochure and by having the brochure be its own mailer, rather than having to buy a separate envelope."

Smith came up with the main design on the brochure cover, that of twin white columns connected with a stylistic design featuring an open book and a fanlight.

The Natchez Literary Celebration
presents

The Natchez Trace: Its Literary Legacy



Natchez, Mississippi
June 7-9, 1990

Sponsored by the Natchez Campus of Copiah-Lincoln Community College

"The columns, of course, remind me of the Natchez mansions," Smith said. "And the open book and the fanlight carry out the theme of the celebration — lectures about books set in a city with numerous fanlights over doorways."

"The design is symbolic, too," he said. "The light which books give on life will be emphasized throughout the conference."

Another design by Smith runs behind the wording of the brochure's program lineup. "This design was a natural," Smith said. "It's the Natchez

Trace meandering from Natchez northeast to Nashville, Tenn. Of course, we had to have the Trace itself in the brochure somewhere."

McGehee, long experienced as an artist, holds the bachelor of arts degree in art from Rhodes College, Memphis, Tenn., and the master of fine arts degree from the University of Mississippi.

Recently she was commissioned to produce 14 woven banners for St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Jackson, and another banner for the Girl Scouts of America Headquarters, also in Jackson.

In 1987 she won national honors in competition in the River Roads Art Show, Baton Rouge, La. Prior to that she was assistant art director for University of Mississippi Publications. Currently she owns Design Studio in Meadville.

Smith has won numerous first-place awards in art competition since 1982, when, as a fifth-grader at Trinity Episcopal Day School, he won the Natchez Democrat's Christmas Art Contest.

Most recently, he won first place at McCallie School for designs used on the school's annual Christmas concert's programs, posters and tickets.

In the spring of 1989, he was student director of set design for McCallie's production of "West Side Story." He has won multiple first-place citations for entries in art competition at McCallie and in Natchez.

Natchez Literary Celebration brochures and posters are available free by writing NLC, P.O. Box 2282, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez, MS 39121-2282.

NATCHEZ LITERARY CELEBRATION

by Kelley Crook



Famed Mississippi author Eudora Welty and a host of other American writers and scholars will lead an educational and cultural festival here in June called "The Natchez Trace: Its Literary Legacy."

The festival, sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez and financially assisted by the National Endowment for the Humanities through the Mississippi Humanities Council, will take place June 7-9.

The event will provide 10 scholarly lectures and panel discussions as well as numerous educational and social events including the formal dedication of National Historic Landmark, Melrose, as the first property to be acquired for America's new park, the Natchez National Historical Park.

Director of proceedings will be William Winter of Jackson, former governor of Mississippi and longtime president of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History's board of trustees.

Literary experts are:

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On June 8, the formal dedication of the antebellum mansion Melrose by Park Service Officials as the premier acquisition of the Natchez National Historical Park is expected to attract state and national dignitaries. The Mississippi Symphony Orchestra will perform.

Another festival event on June 7 is the dedication of the museum house Rosalie as a National Historic Landmark. Rosalie is owned by the Mississippi Society Daughters of American Revolution.

In addition to lectures and dedications, the literary event will offer a tour of the southern end of the Natchez Trace.

Featured stops are at the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians; Emerald Mound; Brandon Hall; and Mount Locust, where refreshments and live demonstrations of historical everyday activities will be provided.

Other events include performances of Welty's "The Robber Bridegroom" by the Natchez Little Theatre, a picnic overlooking the Mississippi River, receptions at Rosalie, Melrose and National Historic Landmark Stanton Hall, and an autograph party for all lecturers.

The celebration is being presented in cooperation with the Natchez National Historical Park Foundation, the Historic Natchez Foundation, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the National Park Service, the Natchez Trace Parkway Association, the Natchez Little Theatre, the Judge George W. Armstrong Library, the Natchez Historical Society, the Natchez Pilgrimage Tours and other groups.

Cost for a full three-day package ticket is \$200.00, which includes 10 lectures, some meals, tours, entertainment and transportation to events held away from the hotel. Tickets are also available for per-day packages of \$90.00 each as well as single event tickets ranging in price from \$10.00 to \$15.00 to \$35.00.

Tickets and further information may be obtained by writing to Natchez Literary Celebration, Post Office Box 2262, Natchez, Mississippi 39121, or by telephoning (601) 442-7241 or (800) 647-6742.

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Copiah-Lincoln
Community College
Natchez Campus

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N-SIGHTS

Volume XVII, No. 3

Belhine Site

Wednesday, March 7, 1990

Washington Site

Natchez, MS 38120

Melrose to be dedicated during NLC

By Leigh Ann Delaney

Please see related stories, pp. 8 and 12.

One of the major highlights of the first-ever Natchez Literary Celebration, sponsored by Co-Lin Natchez June 7-8, will be the formal dedication of the first segment of America's newest national park—Antebellum Melrose and 40 surrounding acres.

Melrose, a Natchez mansion dating to 1845, will be dedicated Friday, June 8, at 6:30 p.m. in a special free service featuring music by the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra. More than 750

people are expected.

VIPs expected to participate in the ceremony are Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan; Sen. Thad Cochran (R-Miss.); Sen. Trent Lott (R-Miss.); Rep. Mike Parker (D-Miss.); Rep. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery (D-Miss.); and many other dignitaries.

Melrose will be part of the only national park in the United States devoted to the study of Southern life in the mid-19th century, said National Park Service Site Director Stuart Johnson of Natchez.

An option to buy the property was acquired by the Trust for Public Land in 1989. An appro-

priation bill for \$5.27 million was also approved by the U.S. Congress that year.

Final acquisition papers for the National Park Service to obtain Melrose are to be signed in March or April of 1990, said Anne Peery, spokesman for TPL, Tallahassee, Fla.

After the formal ceremonies June 8, the mansion will be opened for tours and refreshments.

Assisting with details are NLC co-chairmen Becky J. Holloway, Carolyn Vance Smith and Kenneth J. Taylor, instructors at Co-Lin Natchez.

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Help for NLC is pouring in

By Leigh Ann Delaney

Help is pouring in to produce the first-ever Natchez Literary Celebration, sponsored by Co-Lin Natchez, says co-chairman Carolyn Vance Smith.

The event, set for June 7-9, will benefit the Natchez National Historical Park Foundation.

With a budget of \$100,000, the celebration is selling tickets as well as being supported by generous groups and organizations, Smith said.

"Ticket sales are moving briskly," she said. Full-price tickets are \$200, with each event available separately at rates of \$10 to \$35 each.

The Mississippi Humanities Council of the National Endowment for the Humanities recently donated the first grant to NLC in the amount of \$9,947.

"This money will fund part of the travel expenses and honoraria for lecturers and will help pay for certain supplies and promotional costs," Smith said.

A second grant of \$5,000 was recently received from the Trust for Public Land, an agency which played a major part in the acquisition of Melrose for the National Park



Service.

"This grant will help pay for the Melrose dedication ceremonies June 8," Smith said.

Also assisting financially and in kind are Deposit Guaranty National Bank, Britton & Koontz First National Bank, United Mississippi Bank, Concordia Bank & Trust Co., Trustmark Bank, International Paper Co., Chevron Inc., Fidelity Tire and Mississippi Power & Light Co.

Also contributing are The Natchez Democrat, South Central Bell, Callon Petroleum Co., Natchez Community Concert Association, The Natchez Little Theatre, Natchez Historical Society, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, National Park Service and the Natchez Trace Parkway Association.

Also assisting are Daughters of the American Revolution, Natchez Pilgrimage Tours, Natchez Garden Club, Natchez Art Association, Pilgrimage Garden Club, ARA Food Services, Historic Natchez Foundation, Nat-

chez Convention and Visitor Commission and the Natchez Historical Park Foundation.

Individuals donating time and expertise are Barbara Potter of Natchez, secretary; Louise Doughty of Natchez, assistant registrar; Willie Mae Dunn and Dr. Billy R. Thames of Co-Lin; Brad Chism and Connie Taunton of Natchez Convention Center; Bobby DeBleux of Natchez Pilgrimage Tours; Stuart Johnson, site director of the Natchez National Park; Joan Gandy, The Natchez Democrat; and Elbert Hilliard of Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

"Additional donors and volunteers are needed for this three-day event to be a success," Smith said. "We hope it will be a prototype for future annual Natchez literary celebrations."

Anyone wishing to donate money, time or goods should call Smith or her co-chairmen, Becky J. Holloway and Kenneth Taylor, Smith said.

"People say the literary celebration with the dedication of Melrose will be one of the biggest things in Natchez this year," Smith said. "We are very grateful for all the help we're getting."

NLC tickets for Co-Linners range from free to \$200

Tickets for the first-ever Natchez Literary Celebration, sponsored by Co-Lin Natchez, range from free to \$200, says Kenneth J. Taylor, NLC co-chairman.

The event is set for June 7-9 with the theme, "The Natchez Trace: Its Literary Legacy."

Ten lectures, several receptions, a picnic, a banquet, a Natchez Trace tour, three dedication ceremonies and a Natchez Little Theatre production of "The Robber Bridegroom" are on the agenda.

"We have purposely priced the tickets so that anyone can attend, no matter what their pocketbook looks like," Taylor said.

Co-Lin Natchez students, faculty and staff are eligible to attend lectures free simply by signing up in the admissions office at Washington, Taylor said.

"We have a certain number of free seats available," Taylor said. Co-Linners who volunteer to usher and do other jobs are also eligible to attend lectures free.



"We have purposely priced the tickets so that everyone can attend."

—Kenneth Taylor

Usual price per lecture is \$15.

Tickets for "The Robber Bridegroom" are \$7 for Co-Linners and \$10 for all others. These tickets are also available in the admissions office.

Other events during the celebration are free dedication ceremonies at Melrose, Rosalie and on the Bluff, a picnic at Rosalie, \$15; a guided tour of the Natchez Trace, \$35; and a reception, dinner and reading by Eudora Welty at Stanton Hall, \$35.

The entire package is \$200, Taylor said. Per-day packages are \$90 each. All may be purchased from Taylor or his co-chairmen, Becky J. Holloway and Carolyn Vance Smith.

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The Natchez

FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 1990

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Lujan coming to town

Interior secretary
to participate
in park dedication

NATCHEZ — Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan Jr. will take part in the June 8 dedication of the Natchez National Historical Park.

Sen. Trent Lott confirmed Lujan's participation Thursday.

"I've been telling him he and his wife (Jean) would love Natchez, and today I got the confirmation that he's coming," Lott said.

The ceremonies will dedicate the first property comprising the Natchez park to the National Park Service. The dedication ceremonies will coincide with the "The Natchez Trace: Its Literary Legacy," a literary festival being held June 7-9 in Natchez.

Lott credited Lujan with helping Mississippi obtain \$5.27 million to be used by the park service for the acquisition of Melrose, operational funding and study of future acquisition. Melrose will be the scene of the dedication ceremony.

The educational festival will feature lectures, readings and discussions of some of the literary wealth associated with the Natchez Trace. It will provide historical settings for these works and will include designed tours, meals and entertainment.

The literary celebration is being sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, the National Park Service, the U.S. Department of the Interior, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the Natchez Trace Parkway Association, the Natchez National Historical Park Foundation, the Historic Natchez Foundation, the Natchez Little Theatre and Natchez Pilgrimage Tours.

Lujan was sworn into President George Bush's cabinet in February 1989 after 20 years as a U.S. Representative from New Mexico.

Audubon's birds, bushes get new look

Centreville native sets out to prove artist painted more birds near Natchez than previously thought

By JOAN GANDY
The Natchez Democrat

The woods Doug Lewis walked in childhood come alive in the paintings of John James Audubon.

Now Lewis finds hidden and startling riches in those woods — depicted in Audubon's famous paintings of birds.

"Eight of Audubon's paintings had until now been firmly assigned to the Natchez District — eight out of 435 paintings," Lewis said by telephone Thursday from the Washington, D.C., gallery where he works.

"Now I, just by my research so far, have 32 paintings quite firmly identified as having been painted in Natchez."

A native of Centreville, where his family has lived at Beech Grove Plantation for 10 generations, Lewis now is curator of sculpture and decorative arts at the National Gallery of Art.

In June, he will join other prestigious speakers at the first Natchez Literary Celebration, "The Natchez Trace: Its Literary Legacy."

Lewis' lecture, "The Trace of the Old Southwest in The Birds of America: J.J. Audubon's Drawings and Writings from the Natchez District," will be the culmination of months of intense study of the artist-

"I'm trying to redress the imbalance," he said.

Audubon was in the Natchez District in the 1820s, spending one entire year and parts of many other years in the area, noting more than once that he preferred Natchez to New Orleans.

"Despite this unusual concentration of wandering and residency in a region conspicuous for its natural variety, during a decade of remarkable productivity, remarkably few of Audubon's famous images have heretofore been connected with the Natchez District," Lewis said.

Audubon constantly crossed from Louisiana into Mississippi without making formal note of it, Lewis said. And that, too, has been a hindrance for researchers.

Now Lewis has a four-fold approach to his research.

One is the botanical evidence that appears in the art works.

The other three are Audubon's early writing, his lightly penciled inscriptions on the original works and the plumage of the birds depicted in the paintings.

"Penciled annotations on the original drawings can tie a flowering plant to a date, and then the question of seasonal plumage arises," he said.

Help

Continued from Page 1C

magnolia or cucumber trees) have just-opened flowers but no leaves?

■ When do red maples (swamp maples) first flower? Could it be late March? And when do the woods produce their red "wings"? Could it be early May?

■ When do eastern cottonwood trees produce large flowers at the same time as leaves?

■ When do black-widing trees produce hanging flowers? Is it at the same time as very young leaves?

■ When in March do western bluebirds peak? When do they begin to fade, with the leaves already out?

■ When do black locust trees flower (while also producing new leaves)?

■ When do honeylocust trees bloom?

■ When does mock orange bloom?

Lifestyle

The Natchez Democrat

The Diamond
SHOP

Trace Town (448-4991)

Natchez's
Leading
Jeweler

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MISSISSIPPI HISTORY

VOLUME XXXII

NUMBER 3

MARCH, 1990

Natchez Trace Literary Celebration

"The Natchez Trace: Its Literary Legacy," to be held June 7-9 in Natchez, will feature lectures by noted historians D. Clayton James, Robert V. Rimini, Michael Kreyling, Margaret Walker Alexander, and others, and a reading by Eudora Welty from her short story "The Worn Path," which is set on the Natchez Trace. Festival coordinator Carolyn Smith, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, announced that activities will include other tours of the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians, Emerald Mound, and historic mansions, picnics, banquets, a production of Welty's "The Robber Bridegroom," the Natchez National Historical Park dedication ceremonies, and more. Full package tickets are \$200 each, and per-event tickets range from \$10-35 each. Registration is limited and may be closed; interested persons are urged to contact the Festival office at P.O. Box 2282, Natchez, MS 39121 or call (601) 442-7341 or 1-800-647-6742. Directing the proceedings will be the Honorable William F. Winter.

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Eudora Welty, Sec. Lujan, other VIPs due June 7-9

By Leigh Ann Delaney

The VIP-studded Natchez Literary Celebration, sponsored by the Natchez campus of Copiah-Lincoln Community College June 7-9, and funded in part by the Mississippi Humanities Council, will be an exciting, educational weekend, says Co-chairman Carolyn Vance Smith.

"The three-day event includes the acceptance of Melrose by Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan Jr., a reading by America's First Lady of Letters Eudora Welty, a play by Alfred Uhry based on Welty's novella, 'The Robber Bridegroom,' 10 lectures by superstars and much more," Smith said.

Also planned are numerous tours, ceremonies, receptions and various forms of entertainment. Headquarters of the event is The Natchez Eola Hotel, where all lectures will take place.

The agenda for what Smith calls the first of an annual summer literary celebration is as follows:

THURSDAY, JUNE 7

- 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.: Check-in and coffee at the Eola. An informal tour of the Historic Natchez Collection, at the Historic

Natchez Foundation on Franklin Street.

- 10:30 a.m.: Welcome by Dr. Billy B. Thames, President of Copiah-Lincoln Community College District, and Dr. J. R. Stribling, Chairman of the Board. Introduction of Literary Celebration Co-chairmen Becky Junkin Holloway, Kenneth Taylor and Smith, faculty members at Co-Lin Natchez.

Introduction of the Director of Proceedings, former Mississippi Gov. William Winter, President of the Board of Trustees, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.

- 11:00 a.m.: 'The Role of the Natchez Trace in the Development of the Nation' by Dr. D. Clayton James, Biggs Chair in Military History, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Va.

- 1:30 p.m.: 'Andrew Jackson's Adventures on the Natchez Trace' by Dr. Robert V. Remini, Professor of History and Research Professor of Humanities at the University of Illinois, Urbana.

- 2:30 p.m.: Coffee.

- 3:00 p.m.: 'A Trace of Violence' by Dr. D.W. Guice, professor of History at the University of Southern Mississippi, Hatties-

burg.

- 4:00 p.m.: 'The Fort of Natchez and the Beginning of the Natchez Trace' by Jack Elliott,



EUDORA WELTY

Historical Archaeologist at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, West Point.

- 5:45 p.m.: Ceremonies designating Rosalie as a National His-

toric Landmark, followed by a tour of Rosalie and an informal picnic in the Rosalie Garden near the site of the Fort of Natchez,



MANUEL LUJAN JR.

overlooking the Mississippi River.

- 8:45 p.m.: 'The Robber Bridegroom,' a musical version of Eudora Welty's novella set on the Natchez Trace, performed at the

Natchez Little Theatre.

FRIDAY, JUNE 8

- 9:00 a.m.: 'Minorities and the Use of the Natchez Trace' by Dr. Kit Carter, Professor of History, Mississippi University for Women, Columbus, and Dr. Robert Jenkins, Associate Professor of History, Mississippi State University, Starkville.

- 10:00 a.m.: Coffee.

- 10:30 a.m.: 'The Trace of the old Southwest in the BIRDS OF AMERICA: J.J. Audubon's Drawings and Writings from the Natchez District' by Dr. Douglas Lewis, Curator of Sculpture and Decorative Arts, Washington, D.C.

- 11:30 a.m.: 'The Natchez Trace: A Treasure for America' by Dale Smith, Chief of Interpretation, Natchez Trace Parkway of The National Park Service in Tupelo.

- 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.: A guided tour of the Natchez Trace, with stops at The Grand Village of the

See VIPs page 2

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VIPs

Continued from page 1

Natchez Indians with a talk by James F. Barnett, Jr., Mount Locust, Emerald Mound and Brandon Hall.

• 6:30 p.m.: Official ceremonies, tours and garden party at historic Melrose, with The Trust for Public Land dedicating the property to the National Park Service. Remarks by Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan Jr. and a concert by the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra.

• 8:45 p.m.: Repeat performance of "The Robber Bridegroom" at the Natchez Little Theatre.

SATURDAY, JUNE 9

• 9:00 a.m.: "The Mississippi Frontier in Faulkner's Fiction and in Fact" by Dr. Don H. Doyle, Chairman of the Department of History, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn.

• 10:00 a.m.: Autograph party honoring all lecturers.

• 11:00 a.m.: "Natchez in Southern American Literature with Emphasis on Richard Wright" by Dr. Margaret Walker Alexander, Professor of English Emeritus, Jackson State University, Jackson.

• 2:00 p.m.: "The Natchez Trace in Eudora Welty's Fiction," a panel discussion by Dr. Michael Kreyling, Professor of English at

Vanderbilt; Dr. Suzanne Marrs, Associate Professor of English at Millsaps College, Jackson; and Dr. Peggy Prenshaw, Professor of English at USM.

• 3:30 p.m.: An informal tour of "Antiques Row" beginning at 612 Franklin St.

• 4:00 p.m.: Dedication of a Mississippi Historic Marker honoring Natchez native Richard Wright on the Natchez Bluffs.

• 6:00 p.m.: Reception at Stanton Hall.

• 7:00 p.m.: Dinner at the Carriage House, with an after-dinner reading from "A Worn Path," a short story set on The Natchez Trace, by its author, Eudora



WILLIAM WINTER



REMINI



PRENSHAW



MARRS



BARNETT



SMITH



ELLIOTT



JENKINS



CARTER



LEWIS



KREYLING



DOYLE



GUICE



JAMES



ALEXANDER

Welty.

• 8:45 p.m.: Repeat performance of "The Robber Bridegroom."

Tickets range from \$10 for "The Robber Bridegroom" to \$15 per lecture and picnic. The Trace tour and the Stanton Hall/Eudora Welty evening are \$35 each.

A full package for the entire three days is \$200.

Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis by writing Natchez Literary Celebration, P.O. Box 2292, Natchez, MS 39121. The celebration benefits the Natchez National Historical Park Foundation.

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LITERARY CELEBRATION

Ticket prices range from free to \$200 To be dedicated

By Leigh Ann Delaney

A limited number of tickets are still available for the 1990 Natchez Literary Celebration June 7-9.

Prices range from the complete package at \$200 to \$90 per daily package to nothing for the Melrose dedication ceremony June 8.

Individual event prices are as follows: 10 lectures at \$15 each, June 7-9; picnic in the Rosalie garden, \$15, June 7; "The Robber Bridegroom," a musical by The Natchez Little Theatre, \$10, June 7-9; guided tour by bus of the Natchez Trace, \$35, June 8; reception, dinner and reading by Eudora Welty at Stanton Hall, \$35, June 9.

Free events include the dedications of Rosalie June 7, Melrose June 8 and the Richard Wright marker June 9; the autograph party June 9; and exhibits at the Natchez Art Association June 7-9.

Tickets are available by writing Natchez Literary Celebration, P.O. Box 2282, Natchez, MS 39141.



SIMPLE SPLENDOR: The Natchez mansion Melrose, built in 1845 and still in pristine condition, will be dedicated to the National Park Service in formal ceremonies Friday, June 8, at 6:30 p.m. The free event, open to the public, features remarks by Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan, Jr. and a concert by the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra.

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Bookshop to offer Trace-related titles

By Leigh Ann Delaney

Do you get a kick out of having your books autographed by their authors?

Do you want to begin or add to your collection of Natchez-related history books, biographies, books of fiction and drama?

Or are you looking for certain hard-to-find, out-of-print books dealing with the history of Natchez, the Natchez Trace and/or Mississippi?

You'll have all these opportunities at Co-Lin Natchez's first Natchez Literary Celebration, to take place June 7-9 at The Natchez Eola Hotel.

Throughout the celebration, Co-Lin Natchez Librarian Willie Mae Dunn and associates will operate a custom-order bookshop in the lobby of the hotel, featuring books by speakers at the celebration.

In addition, as a service for book collectors, Frank Smith of Choctaw Books of Jackson will

sell a number of celebration-related books, most of which are out of print and hard to find.

The bookshop will sponsor an autograph party on Saturday, June 9, from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. in the LaSalle Room of The Eola.

"People are invited to buy books at this party and have them autographed on the spot," Dunn said. "Or, they may bring their copies of books purchased at a previous time and have them autographed."

Titles to be sold at the bookshop include "Eudora Welty Photographs"; Margaret Walker Alexander's "Jubilee" and "Richard Wright: Daemonic Genius"; Robert Remini's "Andrew Jackson"; Patt Black and Harold Young's "The Natchez Trace"; John Guice's "The Outlaw Years"; and numerous other books by and about Welty, William Faulkner, Wright, the Natchez Trace, Mississippi history and culture, including Lee Bailey's "Southern Food and Plantation Houses."

Trace tour to be June 8

Special talks and demonstrations, old-time refreshments and a visit to a rarely opened mansion are highlights of the Natchez Trace tour from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m., Friday, June 8.

At Mount Locust on the Trace, National Park Service Interpreter Bob Kramer will present demonstrations of long-ago crafts, while NLC Co-chairman Becky J. Holloway serves sassafras tea and sugar cookies.

Nearby, a mid-19th century mansion, Brandon Hall, will be opened by its owners, the Diefenthal family, for touring.

Also on the bus tour will be stops at Emerald Mound, the second-largest Indian mound in the world, and the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians, where Director Jim Barnett will present slide shows each half hour.

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Picture this: Picnic at Rosalie June 7

By Leigh Ann Delaney

Picture this—you and your friends enjoying the end of a beautiful summer day at a picnic in the garden near the antebellum mansion, Rosalie.

A breathtaking sunset, the mighty Mississippi river, and delightful music beckon you.

Fresh catfish and all the trimmings whet your appetite.

Does all this sound good to you? Well, then you need to be at the Rosalie garden picnic at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, June 7.

Prior to the picnic, at 5:45 p.m., the Mississippi Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution will receive National Historic Landmark status for state headquarters Rosalie in a special outdoor ceremony.

The ceremony, part of Co-Lin Natchez's 1990 Literary Celebration,

will include speeches by state DAR leaders Janet Thigpen Picayune, Jo Love of Hattiesburg and Margaret DeMouille of Tupe

Also attending will be National Park Service officials, national state and local political leaders, NLC ticket-holders and the general public.

This free ceremony will be followed by the Rosalie garden picnic hosted by Co-Lin Natchez, and arranged by Becky J. Holloway, NLC co-chairman and instructor of Hotel/Restaurant Management.

The menu will include fresh catfish, cooked and served on the spot, boiled corn, new potatoes, cole slaw, wine, beer and soft drinks. Cost for the picnic is \$15 per person. Tickets are available from Kenneth Taylor, NLC co-chairman and Co-Lin instructor of accounting and economics.

In case of rain, the picnic will be held at the Co-Lin Vocation Technical School on Beltline Road.

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Dozens of volunteers involved in first celebration

By Leigh Ann Delaney

Dozens of volunteers are involved in the first Natchez Literary Celebration, set for June 7-9.

Co-Lin Natchez faculty, administrators, staff, students and friends are volunteering hundreds of hours of work.

"But without the planning and organizing done by the co-chairmen, this project could not be a success," said Acting Associate Dean Sandra Davidson.

"We owe them so much for what will truly be one of Mississippi's most prestigious events this year."

NLC co-chairmen are instructors Becky Junkin Holloway, Kenneth J. Taylor and Carolyn Vance Smith, who began work on the celebration in the summer of 1988.

Holloway, instructor of Hotel/Motel/Restaurant Management Technology at Co-Lin Natchez's vo-tech center, heads NLC committees dealing with entertainments, meals, tours, hospitality and physical arrangements.

Taylor, who instructs accounting, business law, finance and marketing, has NLC duties involving finance, accounting, ticket sales, bookshop sales and grant

Smith, coordinator of the English department, instructor of English and journalism and director of public information at Co-Lin, is in charge of program development, publicity, special events, marketing and sales.

Assisting the co-chairmen are numerous people on various committees. Committee chairmen include:

- Willie Mae Durn, Geraldine Brown, Frank Smith of Jackson and Judy Stahlman: bookshop and autograph party.

- Bettye Mullis, Rhonda Posey, Joyce Calcote, Pat Cater, Myra Washington, Morea Bell and Louise Doughty: registration and information desk.

- Carol Bonner, Jane Fowler, Bea Tatum, Elizabeth Craig, Jim Todd, Judy Emerick, Betty Ratcliffe and Ann Tiltman: flowers.

- Maria Torrey and Sue Blackwell: hosts and hostesses.

- Bobbie Porter: Eola Hotel refreshments.

- Kathy Madden, John Bullen and Louis Selmon: Rosalie picnic.

- Gail Case, David Davidson, Brad Chinn, Anne Peery, Barbara Doran, Stuart Johnson, Bud Berthold, Phillip West, Walter Salmon and other Adams County supervisors, Mayor David Armstrong and the City of Natchez:



HAPPY WITH THEIR PROJECT: The smiling 1990 NLC Co-chairmen are, from left, Becky Junkin Holloway, Kenneth J. Taylor and Carolyn Vance Smith, Co-Lin Natchez instructors.

Melrose dedication ceremony.

- Joey Paul: music.
- Jan Byrne and Melanie Warren: Natchez Trace Tour.
- Joyce Calcote, Debra Stephens, Bobby DeBlieux, Edna Howard and Dot Clark: Stanton Hall tour and Carriage House dinner.

- Josie Anderson, Ushera Guild, James Davis, James Lindsey, Beth Boggess, Tommy Jackson: "The Robber Bridgegrove."

- Emily Smith, Lucianne Wood, Marion Smith, William Smith and

Val Smith of Atlanta: Glen Mary dinner.

- Jan Byrne: speaker hospitality.

- Darrell Herron: VIP transportation.

- Barbara Potter, Kristi Lamont, Kelley Crook, Joan Gandy and Alec Van Ryan: publicity.

- Barbara Potter, Rose Roberts and Bob Comer: press room.

- Dr. Billy B. Thames, Dr. Howell Garner, Sandra Davidson, Diana Martello, Jim Wiggins,

Clark Burkett, John Williams, Prudence McGehee, Mike Peavy, Elliott Trimble, Ray Shelby, Robert Smith, Dean Gibson, James Browning and Judy Emerick: VIP luncheon.

- Shirley McGraw, Diana Martello, Barbara Kaiser, Rhett Powell and Harold Young: documentation and archives.

- Prudence McGehee, William Smith, Dale Smith, Kristi Lamont, Wanda Parsons, Hal Garner and Ron Miller: exhibits.

- Dean Gibson: Natchez Writers Club and Refractors.

- Elizabeth Roderick, Berry Bateman, Maris Pettus, Ron and Lani Riches: VIP luncheon at Monmouth.

- Margaret DeMoss: Rosalie dedication.

- Carol Jones and Jane Prosperi: VIP luncheon at Magnolia Hall.

- Jim Barnett, Bob Kramer and the Dieffenhal family: Natchez Trace tour.

- B. B. Bosch: VIP dinner at Longwood.

- Ed Darling, Mimi Miller, Weeta Colebank and Camdi Davis: VIP luncheon at King's Tavern.

- Mimi Miller: Richard Wright marker dedication.

- Zoe Wood and Diana Nutter: Eola Hotel lecture hall.

LITERARY CELEBRATION

CO-LIN N-SIGHTS

FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 1990

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Leaders will be lecture chairmen

Assisting as lecture chairmen during the June 7-9 Natchez Literary Celebration are a number of educational and civic leaders from the three states through

which the Natchez Trace runs.

"We are delighted to have these highly respected leaders with us," said Co-Lin President Billy B. Thames.

Thames and Co-Lin Board of Trustees President J. R. Stribling will introduce the lecture chairmen during opening ceremonies at 10:30 a.m., June 7, at The Natchez Eola Hotel.

Lecture chairmen are Dr. Robert Barnes of Natchez, President of the Natchez National Historical Park Foundation; Dr. David Sansing, professor of history, University of Mississippi; Dr. Aubrey Lucas, president of the University of Southern Mississippi; Dr. Walter Washington, president of Alcorn State University.

Also serving are Elbert Hilliard, director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History; Mayor of Madison Mary Hawkins, president of the Natchez Trace Parkway Association; James Bainbridge, superintendent of the Natchez Trace Parkway.

Also serving are Florence, Ala., Mayor Buel Springer, president-elect of the NTPA; Dr. Alfredteen Harrison, Professor of History and Director of the Institute for the Study of History, Life and Culture of Black People, Jackson State University; Patti Carr Black, director, State Historical Museum, MDAH, Jackson.

NATIVE SON: A Mississippi historic marker will be erected in free ceremonies at 4 p.m., Sat., June 9, on the Natchez Bluffs to honor Natchez native Richard Wright. Author of "Native Son" and "Black Boy," Wright was born near Natchez. He will be the subject of an NLC lecture by Dr. Margaret Walker Alexander at 11 a.m., June 9.



LUCAS



SANSING



WASHINGTON



HARRISON



BLACK



HAWKINS



SPRINGER



STRIBLING



THAMES



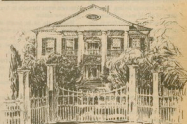
HILLIARD



BAINBRIDGE



BARNES



NATIONAL NEWS: On Thursday, June 7, at 5:45 p.m., Rosalie will be dedicated as a National Historic Landmark in formal ceremonies. Rosalie is the state headquarters for the Daughters of the American Revolution. A picnic following the ceremony costs \$15, with tickets available from the Natchez Literary Celebration, P.O. Box 2262, Natchez, MS 39121.

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THE SOUTHERN REGISTER



*The Newsletter of the Center
for the Study of Southern Culture
The University of Mississippi
Spring 1990*



NATCHEZ LITERARY CELEBRATION TO TAKE PLACE IN JUNE

On June 7 through 9, Copiah-Lincoln Community College of Natchez will sponsor a conference, "The Natchez Trace: Its Literary Legacy." All sessions will take place at the Natchez Eola Hotel.

Some 10 scholars will take part including D. Clayton James, Virginia Military Institute; Douglas Lewis, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; Robert V. Remini, University of Illinois; and Don H. Doyle and Michael Kreyling, both of Vanderbilt University. Other speakers will be Jack Elliott, historical archaeologist with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History; Dale Smith of Tupelo, chief interpreter for the Natchez Trace Parkway; Kit Carter, Mississippi University for Women; Robert Jenkins, Mississippi State University; Suzanne Marrs, Millsaps College; and Peggy Preshaw, University of Southern Mississippi.

Margaret Walker Alexander, professor emerita of Jackson State University, will also be a featured speaker. In addition, Pulitzer Prize-winner Eudora Welty will read from her short story "The Worn Path," and there will be three performances of the musical version of her novella "The Robber Bridegroom." Former governor William L. Winter will moderate the sessions.

During the conference ceremonies will take place marking the riverfront mansion Rosalie a National Historic Landmark, while Melrose mansion, already so designated, will be dedicated to the United States National Park Service and will become part of the new Natchez National Historical Park. In addition, a historic marker will be dedi-

cated on the Natchez Bluffs honoring Natchez author and native Richard Wright. Other events will include a picnic at Rosalie, a dinner on Saturday evening at the Carriage House, a reception at Stanton Hall, and tours of the Natchez Trace, with stops at the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians, Mount Locust, Emerald Mound, and Brandon Hall.

The conference will be partially funded by a grant from the Mississippi Humanities Council. Co-chairmen of the event are

Carolyn Vance Smith, Kenneth Taylor, and Becky Junkin Holloway, all members of the faculty of Copiah-Lincoln Community College.

Tickets for the literary festival are \$200 per person and include the 10 lectures, a number of entertainment and social events, and the reading by Eudora Welty. Tickets for the day are available for \$90. Proceeds will benefit the Natchez National Historical Park Foundation.

Orders for tickets or requests for more information should be sent to Natchez Literary Celebration, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, P.O. Box 2282, Natchez, MS 39121. Checks should be made payable to the Natchez Literary Celebration.

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MELROSE DEDICATION TO TAKE PLACE DURING LITERARY CELEBRATION

By Barbara Potter

Antebellum Melrose, as the first segment of the new Natchez National Historical Park, will be dedicated to the National Park Service on Friday, June 8, at 6:30 p.m. at Melrose.

The public is invited to attend these special free ceremonies, which will feature a keynote address by the Secretary of the Interior, Manuel Lujan, remarks by The Trust for Public Land Board Chairman, Douglas Ferguson, a concert by the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, refreshments and tours.

Among those present will be United States senators and congressmen, Mississippi legislators, local officials, and officials from The Trust for Public Land and the National Park Service. Major television networks, radio, and other news media are expected to cover the event.

Also attending will be Mrs. Dexter Ferry of Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, her children and a number of her grandchildren, all descendants of George Malin Davis, the second owner of Melrose.

Along with the dedication ceremonies are three days of lectures, tours, meals and entertainments which comprise the first Natchez Literary Celebration. Sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez and partially funded by the Mississippi Humanities Council, the celebration is set for June 7-10, with headquarters at The Natchez Eola Hotel.

With the theme, "The Natchez Trace, Its Literary Legacy," the conference will feature discussions by 11 of the nation's most noted scholars and writers, including the first Lady of American Fiction, Mississippi's Eudora Welty. The Honorable William Winter, former governor of Mississippi, is Director of Proceedings.

Along with the lectures are several special events in addition to the Melrose dedication. These include the dedication of antebellum Rosalie as a National Historic Landmark; the dedication of a historic marker honoring Natchez native and author, Richard Wright, a tour of the Natchez Trace; and performances by the Natchez Little Theatre of Welty's *The Robber Bridegroom*.

Carolyn Vance Smith, Literary Celebration Co-chairman, said, "I would like people in Natchez to know they have a choice of purchasing either a single ticket for the entire three-day event, or they can purchase tickets to the individual lectures or events in which they are most interested.

"Seating is limited and is on a first-come, first-served basis," she said. "Requests for tickets are coming in from all parts of the country. We are extremely pleased with the response we are getting."

Ticket prices are as follows:

- | | |
|-------|--|
| \$200 | Complete three-day package. Includes all events. |
| \$ 15 | Per lecture for daytime lectures, June 7-9. |
| \$ 10 | Natchez Little Theatre's <i>The Robber Bridegroom</i> June 7, 8, 9 at 8:45 p.m. |
| \$ 35 | * Guided tour of the Natchez Trace, June 8, from 2-5 p.m., includes visits to The Grand Village of The Natchez Indians, Mount Locust (demonstrations and refreshments), Emerald Mound, Brandon Hall. |
| \$ 35 | Reception at Stanton Hall and dinner at the Carriage House restaurant, with reading by Miss Welty, June 9 at 6 p.m. |
| Free | Melrose dedication, June 8 at 6:30 p.m. |
| Free | Rosalie dedication, June 7 at 5:45 p.m. |
| Free | Richard Wright historic marker dedication, June 9 at 4 p.m. on the Natchez Bluff. |

The Literary symposium is the brainchild of Carolyn Vance Smith, who has worked unceasingly to see her idea to fruition," said Dr. Billy B. Thames, President of Copiah-Lincoln Community College.

Smith is coordinator of the English Department at Co-Lin and a member of the board of both the Natchez Trace Parkway Association and the Natchez National Historical Park Foundation. Her celebration co-

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The Natchez Digest

April, 1990

Community Current Events, Faces & Places

chairmen are Becky Junkin Holloway and Kenneth J. Taylor.

"None of this could have come to pass without the help and support of many wonderful donors," Smith emphasized. "We at Co-Lin were so pleased to receive a major grant from the Mississippi Humanities Council and a large donation from The Trust for Public Land, as well as very generous donations from local and statewide businesses and other organizations."

All proceeds from the symposium will benefit the new Natchez National Historical Park Foundation.

"Although the celebration is a benefit event," said Taylor, the celebration's finance co-chairman, "funding from the Mississippi Humanities Council makes it possible for a certain number of people who are interested, but indigent, to be seated at the lectures."

Further information about the celebration may be obtained by writing to the Natchez Literary Celebration, P.O. Box 2282, Natchez, MS 39121, Taylor said.



Barbara Potter receiving
Pilgrimage guests at Melrose.
Photo by Sim Callon

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The Natchez

SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 1990

Vol. 126, No. 84

Serving Natchez, Va.

Literary festival draws national interest

By JOAN GANDY
The Natchez Democrat

NATCHEZ — Tickets are moving fast for the first Natchez Literary Celebration.

The June 7-9 event, sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, is drawing sales from Mississippi as well as out-of-state, said Carolyn Vance Smith, an English teacher at Co-Lin's Natchez campus and one of the coordinators of the celebration.

"It's hard to say exactly how many tickets have been sold because Natchez Pilgrimage Tours is selling tickets for us, too, and we don't have a count from them yet," Smith said this week.

"But I know we've taken in thousands of dollars in ticket sales at Co-Lin."

She said ticket inquiries from Natchez people are increasing but she fears many in Natchez don't realize the importance of getting tickets early.

"I'm afraid Natchez people are going to wait too

long, that we'll sell out before they get tickets," she said.

Tickets to the entire event are \$200, but many single-event tickets are available, ranging in price from \$15 to \$90.

"All of the highlights of the weekend will be free," Smith said. That is the dedication of Melrose as the Natchez National Historical Park.

"The Melrose affair is going to be beautiful, and people just don't realize that it's free. Everyone is invited to come."

Dignitaries including Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan and Mississippi Gov. Ray Mabus will speak at the dedication.

"The Mississippi Symphony Orchestra will play at Melrose that day, too," Smith said. The Melrose event is June 8.

The three-day festival will feature prominent speakers, whose lectures will center on themes and literary works on the Natchez Trace.

The \$200 ticket includes 10 lectures, a picnic on the Natchez bluffs, a tour of the Natchez Trace, a performance of the musical "The Robber Bridegroom," tours and receptions at Rosalie, Stanton Hall and Melrose, and a banquet with Eudora Welty as the featured artist reading from her own work.

Any of the 10 lectures is available at \$15 each. They are:

■ "The Role of the Natchez Trace in the Development of the Nation," by D. Clayton James, June 7, at 11 a.m.

■ "Andrew Jackson's Adventures on the Natchez Trace," by Robert Nimsini, June 7, at 6:30 p.m.

■ "The Fort of Natchez and the Beginning of the Natchez Trace," by Jack Elliott, June 7, at 4 p.m.

■ "Minorities and their Use of the Natchez Trace," by Kit Carter and Robert Jenkins, June 8, 9 a.m.

■ "The Trace of the Old Southwest in 'The Birds of America': J.J. Audubon's Drawings and Writings from the Natchez District," by Douglas Lewis, June 8, 10:30 a.m.

■ "The Natchez Trace: A Treasure for America," by Dale Smith, June 8, 11:30 a.m.

■ "The Mississippi Frontier in Faulkner's Fiction and in Fact," by Dr. Don H. Doyle, June 9, 9 a.m.

■ "Natchez in Southern American Literature with Emphasis on Richard Wright," by Margaret Walker Alexander, June 9, 11 a.m.

■ "The Natchez Trace in Eudora Welty's Fiction," by Michael Kreyling, Suzanne Marrs, and Peggy Prenshaw, June 9, 2 p.m.

In addition to the individual lectures, other events

See LITERARY, Page 3A



Carolyn Smith

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Literary

Continued from Page 1A

are ticketed individually for those who do not want to purchase the entire package.

Those events and tickets are:

■ "The Robber Bridegroom," a musical based on Eudora Welty's novella set on the Natchez Trace and performed by the Natchez Little Theatre at 8:45 p.m., June 7, 8 and 9. Tickets are \$10.

■ A picnic in the garden at antebellum Rosalie overlooking the Mississippi River on June 7, at \$15 each, following a free 5:45 p.m. ceremony dedicating Rosalie as a National Historic Landmark.

■ A guided tour of the Natchez Trace, including a stop at Emerald Mound and at antebellum Brandon

Hall, on June 8, from 2 to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$35 per person.

■ An evening of entertainment on June 9 that includes a reception at Stanton Hall at 6 p.m., a dinner at the Carriage House Restaurant at 7 p.m. and an after-dinner reading by Eudora Welty. Tickets are \$35 each.

In addition to the dedication of Melrose, several other free events are offered, Smith said.

The literary festival is a fund-raiser for the Natchez National Historical Park Foundation.

Many corporate gifts and a Mississippi Humanities Council grant of nearly \$10,000 help to make the literary celebration possible.

With the council's help, a certain number of free seats are available.

Anyone wanting to buy tickets or get more information may write to The Natchez Literary Celebration, P.O. Box 2282, Natchez, Miss. 39121.



The Natchez Literary Celebration

"The Natchez Trace: Its Literary Legacy"

Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez Campus
P.O. Box 2282
Natchez, MS 39121

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FOCUS on the Humanities

Volume 3, Number 1 NS A Publication of the Mississippi Humanities Council April 1990

JUNE, 1990

7 COPIAH-LINCOLN COMMUNITY COLLEGE,* *Symposium*, "The Natchez Trace: Its Literary Legacy," through June 9. June 7, 8:30 a.m.-8:45 p.m.; June 8 & 9, 9:00 a.m.-8:45 p.m., The Natchez Eola Hotel, 110 North Pearl Street, Natchez. Contact: Carolyn V. Smith, 442-9111.

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Pet project turns into June 7-9 literary festival

Special to The Democrat

NATCHEZ — What began several years ago as an archaeological "pet project" has escalated into a three-day, Natchez-style celebration set for June 7-9.

The celebration, called "The Natchez Trace: Its Literary Legacy," includes lectures, dedications, tours, music, theater, meals and parties dealing with various aspects of the Trace, an ancient 400-mile overland route.

Numerous VIPs from coast to coast are expected at the event, which is sponsored by the Natchez campus of Coastal-Lincoln Community College and funded in part by the Mississippi Humanities Council.

Among those who will be attending the event are Pulitzer Prize-winning author Eubank Wiley of Jackson and Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan Jr.

Other societies joining them include: Richard Wright biographer, Dr. Margaret Walker Alexander of Jackson; Audubon expert, Dr. Douglas Lewis of Washington, D.C.; Andrew Jackson authority, Dr. Robert V. Remond of Chicago; Pauline scholar, Dr. Don Doyle of Vanderbilt University; and Natchez's own historians, Dr. D. Clayton James of The Virginia Mil-



MANUEL LUJAN coming to festival

with Archives and History, "is the catalyst that led to the establishment of the Natchez National Historical Park," Hilliard said.

"His work on the domestic study of the colonial period in Mississippi history is the key. Jack said the Fort Rosalie site (on the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River at Natchez) is too important not to be preserved."

From Eliot's research came the acquisition of Melrose on May 15 for \$1.1 million as well as continued lobbying for federal funds to buy additional park property along the Natchez riverfront, Hilliard said.

Eliot's paper, "The Fort of Natchez and the Beginning of the Natchez Trace," will be delivered 4 p.m. June 7 at the Natchez Rule Hood, which is serving as the celebration headquarters.

Once completely funded, the entire Natchez National Park will serve as the origin of the Natchez Trace Parkway, Hilliard said.

The celebration will begin June 7 with James' lecture, "The Role of The Natchez Trace in the Development of the Nation."

The weekend will conclude June 9 with Wiley's after-dinner reading at Sumner Hall of "A Warm Path," her story set on the Trace.

Also part of the celebration are a guided tour of the Natchez Trace, a picnic in Rosalie garden, The Natchez Little Theatre's "The Rubber Bridge" and special dedications.

These include a Mississippi historic marker honoring native son Richard Wright, the mansion Rosalie as a National Historic Landmark and the mansion Melrose to the National Park Service.

"The dedication of Melrose at 4:30 p.m. on June 8 is a big highlight of the celebration," Hilliard said.

Lujan will deliver keynote remarks at the Melrose dedication.

Joining him will be U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran (R-Miss.), U.S. Sen. Trent Lott (R-Miss.), U.S. Rep. Mike Parker (D-Miss.), U.S. Rep. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery (D-Miss.), and U.S. Rep. Jerry Haskins (D-La.).

Also expected for the weekend are Director of the National Park Service James Ridenour, Southeast Regional Director of the Park Service Robert M. Baker of Atlanta, Natchez Trace Parkway Superintendent James Rainsbride of Tupelo, Chairman of the Board of The Trust for Public Land Douglas Ferguson of San Francisco and Natchez Trace Parkway Association President Mary Hawkins of Melrose.

Former Mississippi Gov. William F. Winter of Jackson will serve as master of ceremonies all three days.

"I am delighted to be included in this significant event and look forward to the historic and memorable experience," Winter said. "Co-Lin has really outdone itself in putting together such an outstanding program."

Winter, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, has led numerous Mississippi delegations to Washington to lobby for Natchez national park funding.

The ceremony dedicating Melrose to the Park Service is the crowning of "numerous generous businesses and organizations," said Co-Lin President Billy B. Thomas.

"We invite everyone to attend all celebration events, and, in particular, the first Melrose event," Thomas said.

In addition to the address by Lujan, the Melrose evening features a pops concert by the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, tours of the mansion and a garden party.

"The program during the three-day literary celebration is, in all likelihood, the best that we have ever had on the state as a subject of this nature," Hilliard said.

"We are honored to have the Department of Archives and History listed as a supporting agency for the celebration and to have members of our staff on the program."

Tickets for the celebration are available by visiting Natchez Literary Celebration, P.O. Box 2331, Natchez, Miss. 39121.

Information about individual tickets may be obtained by calling 442-4111, 442-7341 or 1-800-667-6742.

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TO: MRS. SANDRA DAVIDSON
FROM: CAROLYN VANCE SMITH
DATE: MAY 1, 1990

Per your note, here are some brochures on the Natchez Literary Celebration. They may be given out, or mailed to people who call in.

Some callers may want information on individual prices for each event. They are as follows:

Each lecture is \$15 per ticket.

The play, "The Robber Bridegroom," is \$10 per ticket. The play runs June 7, 8, and 9, at 8:45 p.m. at the Natchez Little Theatre on Linton Ave.

The Natchez Trace Tour is \$35 per ticket. This includes a guided bus tour (with tour guide), refreshments, and stops at the Grand Village, Emerald Mound, Brandon Hall, and Mount Locust (where there will be demonstrations of arts and crafts and refreshments).

The Reception/Dinner/Reading by Eudora Welty on Saturday evening, June 9, at 7 p.m., is \$35 per ticket.

The picnic at Rosalie is \$15 per ticket.

If a caller wants to come to just two or three things (or even one), he can write on a piece of paper which events he wishes to attend, and send it along with his check for the proper amount to The Natchez Literary Celebration, P. O. Box 2282, Natchez, MS 39121.

Also, we will hold all tickets and they can be picked up at the Eola Hotel anytime during the celebration June 7-9.

Thanks so much for helping us!

Barbara Potter

For: Carolyn Vance Smith

Enclosures

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MEMORANDUM



TO: Telephone Answerers

FROM: Sandra Davidson, Acting Associate Dean

DATE: May 3, 1990

SUBJECT: Natchez Literary Celebration

The Place to Be

The attached VIP order form which contains detailed information about the Natchez Literary Celebration should accompany the copy of the memo sent to you from Mrs. Carolyn V. Smith to me. The information should help you when someone calls about the NLC.

If you have questions, please call me.

Thank you for your assistance.

rr

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NATCHEZ
TRACE
PARKWAY
ASSOCIATION



P.O. Drawer A
Tupelo, MS 38802
Phone: 601-842-4598

May 11, 1990

Dear Friends of the Natchez Trace Parkway:

This year's annual meeting, to be held on June 8-9, 1990, at the River Park Hotel in Natchez, Mississippi, offers you an opportunity to become part of history when Melrose Plantation will officially be dedicated a National Park. Secretary of the Interior, Manuel Lujan, will provide the keynote address and other dignitaries including Senators Thad Cochran, Trent Lott and Representative "Sonny" Montgomery will provide responses.

Pre-registration can be made by returning the enclosed card to the above address prior to June 1, 1990. Please enclose payment of \$45.00 per person and make check payable to the Natchez Trace Parkway Association. Registration fees include program, banquet, little theatre presentation; "The Robber Bridegroom" and Saturday riverboat cruise and champagne brunch. Advanced registration is strongly urged so we can prepare for your attendance.

A brochure of the River Park Hotel is enclosed and we ask that you make your own lodging arrangements. Special rates will be offered, so please indicate your attendance to the Parkway meeting.

Information on other activities and events are also enclosed and we request that you make your reservation accordingly.

We look forward to seeing you in Natchez on June 8.

With kindest regards,

Mary Hawkins

Mary Hawkins
President

MH/se

Enclosures

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Natchez Historical Society

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, May 1** at the Ramada Inn. Fellowship starts at 6:45, and the meeting will start at 7:30.

Stuart Johnson with the National Park Service will be the speaker.

IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP NEWS!

The silent auction of the Coyle House contents is scheduled for sometime in May. Details will be released soon.

However, only paid members will be permitted at the sale.

If you have not paid your 1990 dues, you will find attached a membership renewal form. If you would like to remain a member, please send your check and the form to Elizabeth as soon as possible!

NATCHEZ TRACE LITERARY FESTIVAL luncheon at Monmouth is Thursday, June 7. All members will be sent an invitation closer to time. The price of the luncheon will be determined later.

Alice Graham is the Honorary Chairman of the event.

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Literary Festival celebrates Welty visit and National Historic Park

Becky Junkin Holloway, Kenneth Taylor and Carolyn Vance Smith are co-chairpersons for this June's Natchez Trace literary festival. The three Co-Lin instructors have worked hard to offer Natchez a cultural event of first quality.

"The Natchez Trace: Its Literary Legacy," to be held June 7-9 in Natchez, will feature lectures by noted historians D. Clayton James, Robert V. Rimini, Michael Kreyling, Margaret Walker Alexander, and others, and a reading by Eudora Welty from her short story "The Worn Path," which is set on the Natchez Trace.

Activities will include other tours of the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians, Emerald Mound, and historic mansions, picnics, banquets, a production of Welty's "The Robber Bridegroom," the Natchez National Histori-

cal Park dedication ceremonies, and more. Full package tickets are \$200 each, and per-event tickets range from \$10-\$35 each. Registration is limited and may be closed; interested persons are urged to contact the Festival office at P.O. Box 2282, Natchez, MS 39121 or call (601) 442-7341 or 1-800-647-6742. Directing the proceedings will be the Honorable William F. Winter.

Carolyn Vance Smith said, "We hope the festival will make people more aware of the literary heritage of the Natchez Trace. The celebration will provide Co-Lin students and the public with a premier literary symposium and has the added advantage of providing a tourist related activity not offered before. And we hope to raise some additional funds to benefit the Natchez National Historic Park Foundation for its future work."



Becky Junkin Holloway, Kenneth Taylor, and Carolyn Vance Smith of Co-Lin

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The Natchez Literary Celebration

Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez Campus P.O. Box 2282 Natchez, MS 39121

May 11, 1990

To: Louise Doughty

From: Carolyn Vance Smith

Re: RSVPs to invitations

On May 21 we hope to mail large numbers of invitations to the Melrose ceremony on June 8 and other affairs during the Literary Celebration.

I hope you don't get sick and tired of your telephone ringing with RSVPs! I have put your phone number and our post office box number at the bottom of all the invitations except the Melrose one.

The ones you'll be hearing from are as follows:

Wed., June 6, 6:30 p.m. Glen Mary dinner given by Co-Lin Board of Trustees and ARA Food Services

Thurs., June 7, 12 noon - Monmouth luncheon given by Natchez Historical Society

Fri., June 8, 12 noon - Magnolia Hall luncheon given by Co-Lin Natchez and the Natchez Garden Club

Fri., June 8, 8:30 p.m. - Longwood dinner given by Deposit Guaranty National Bank

Sat., June 9, 12 noon - King's Tavern luncheon given by The Natchez Democrat and Co-Lin Natchez

The Melrose invitation does not have an RSVP. It is being mailed from Tallahassee by the Trust for Public Land. The Melrose event begins at 6:30 and is free to all. It will be open to the public - the more, the merrier. People should be told to leave home in plenty of time to get parked and be in their chairs by 6:20. The ceremony including the pops concert by the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra will last about one hour. Afterwards will be tours of Melrose and a garden party. Alternate site for rain is First Baptist Church Family Life Center.

I've asked people to RSVP by June 1. If you'll keep a list of who says what, I'll be in touch the first part of June to find out what you know.

If anyone wants to know, the rain site for the Rosalie Garden picnic on Thursday, June 7, at 6:30 p.m. is the Copiah-Lincoln Vo-Tech building on Beltline Road, one-half mile west of Stahlman's on 61 South.

Thanks for everything!!!

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Mississippi History Newsletter

VOLUME XXXII

NUMBER 5

May, 1990

The Natchez Trace: Its Literary Legacy

June 7-9

featuring

Eudora Welty, D. Clayton James,
Michael Kreyling, Robert Rimini, Mar-
garet Walker Alexander, and ceremonies
designating Rosalie a National Historic
Landmark and conveying Melrose to the
National Park Service for inclusion in
the Natchez National Historical Park.
Information: (601) 442-7241

Sponsors: Copiah-Lincoln Community
College and the National Endowment
for the Humanities through the Missis-
sippi Humanities Council

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The Natchez Digest

Community Current Events,
Natchez, MS

Page 14 - May, 1990 - The Natchez Digest

SMITH ORIGINATES NATCHEZ LITERARY CELEBRATION

by Barbara Potter

Hundreds of people from across the country are coming to Natchez June 7-9 for the 1990 Natchez Literary Celebration. For three days and nights, they'll be attending lectures, the Natchez Little Theatre's presentation of *The Robber Bridegroom*, the dedications of Melrose, Rosalie and the historic marker honoring Richard Wright, and just generally enjoying the sights. Benefits from the celebration go to help the Natchez National Historical Park.

Some wonder how the idea for a literary celebration came about. What goes into the planning and implementation of such a large undertaking as this? How did the celebration get its theme: "The Natchez Trace: Its Literary Legacy?"

For answers, we went to the person who originated the idea, Carolyn Vance Smith. Smith is Coordinator of the English Department of Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez and co-chairman for the celebration.

She told us that for several years she has served on the Board of the Natchez Trace Parkway Association. In 1989, she was asked to serve on the newly created board for the Natchez National Historical Park Foundation.

"I went to the meetings of these two groups and listened to their goal of trying to promote the Natchez Trace," she said. "The Foundation's goal also is to promote the origin of the Trace here with the new Natchez National Historical Park. This set me to thinking and I remembered numerous conferences I've attended that have literature as a theme - such as the William Faulkner festival every summer at the University of Mississippi. The Faulkner conference has been going on for a week every August for 15 years. Also, the University of Texas at Austin has an educators' conference each year, with a series of lectures and workshops highlighted with tours, exhibits and special events."

Smith decided that if Ole Miss and University of Texas at Austin could attract crowds of several hundred every summer, then a subject in literature and our beautiful city of Natchez could surely do the same.

"For years I've taught English literature and composition at Co-Lin. In one of our classes, I teach a story called 'A Worm Path,' by Eudora Welty, which is set on the Natchez Trace and in the town of Natchez. This is one of my favorite stories. It's thrilling to me that college students all over the United States get to read this story, since it is included in a textbook that is used across the nation. Knowing this and knowing of the play, *The Robber Bridegroom*, which is a musical adaptation of Miss Welty's novel set on the Natchez Trace, made me think there are other things that use the Trace as a source of inspiration. Since Natchez has had numerous connections to writers and scholars for decades, what would be more appropriate as a theme than the Natchez Trace?"

Not knowing if this would work or not, Smith began talking to people whose opinions she respected. Everyone was 100 percent supportive, she said. Co-Lin in Natchez decided to sponsor the event.

"Co-Lin President Dr. Billy B. Thames, Dean of Instruction Dr. Howell Garner, Acting Dean of Co-Lin at Natchez Sandra Davidson, the Board of Trustees, and the entire faculty and staff have been most helpful in every way from the very beginning."

Smith emphasized that the symposium could not take place without the planning, organization and labor of her two co-chairmen, Kenneth J. Taylor and Becky Junkin Holloway. Taylor, who is an accounting, business law, finance and marketing instructor at Co-Lin, is in charge of all the

OUTSTANDING NATCHEZIAN

literary celebration's accounting, which includes setting up the bookkeeping system, ticket sales and bookshop sales. Holloway, Co-Lin instructor of hotel/motel/restaurant management technology, handles the celebration's hospitality portion - meals, tours and entertainments. Dozens of other people help take care of all the physical arrangements, the hundreds of details.

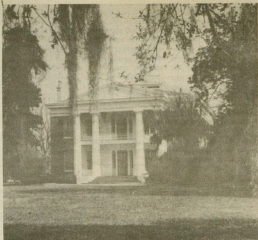
Smith said she was thrilled by calls she got that led to including in the celebration the dedication of Melrose to the National Park Service, the dedication of Rosalie as a national historic landmark and the dedication of the Richard Wright historic marker.

"It is also just so wonderful for the Natchez Little Theatre to produce *The Robber Bridegroom* June 7, 8 and 9, at 8:45 p.m., as part of this symposium," Smith said. "As lagniappe for theater-goers, on Saturday night Miss Welty herself will be in the audience. Dr. Elizabeth Boggess produces the play, Tommy Jackson directs, and they are both just super to work with."

Tickets for the Natchez Literary Celebration and the play, *The Robber Bridegroom*, can be obtained by writing to the Natchez Literary Celebration, P.O. Box 2282, Natchez, MS 39121. Brochures may be picked up from Natchez Pilgrimage Tours, Magnolia Hall Gift Shop or the Co-Lin Administration office at Washington.



Above: Carolyn Vance Smith, Kenneth Taylor and Becky Junkin Holloway



Melrose becomes a national park

On May 15, 1990, the National Park Service will officially purchase Melrose as the first acquisition of the newly established Natchez National Historical Park.

The ca.1845 National Historic Landmark Melrose will be dedicated at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, June 8, 1990, at a ceremony open to the public without charge and including music by the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, a reception, and tours of the house and grounds.

The dedication is to take place as part of the June 7-9 conference, "The Natchez Trace: It's Literary Legacy," which is being sponsored by the National Park Service, the Natchez Branch of Copiah-Lincoln Community College, the Natchez Trace Parkway Association, the Natchez

National Historical Park Foundation, and other organizations.

The conference will feature scholarly lectures, readings, and discussions of some of the literary wealth of the Natchez Trace. Also included will be tours, meals, and entertainment in historical settings.

President Ronald Reagan signed into law the bill creating Natchez National Historical Park on October 7, 1988.

The purposes of the new park, which will be managed as a unit of the Natchez Trace Parkway, are to: (1) preserve and interpret the history of Natchez, Mississippi, as a significant city in the history of the American South; (2) preserve and interpret the sites and structures associated with the peoples of

Natchez and its surrounding area from earliest inhabitants to the modern era, and including blacks both slave and free; (3) preserve and interpret the region's social, political, and economic development, with particular emphasis on the pre- and post-Civil War eras; and (4) preserve and interpret the region's commercial and agricultural history, especially in relation to the Mississippi river and cotton. (Public Law 100-479, Section 1)

To carry out this mandate, Congress has authorized the NPS to acquire in addition to Melrose, the site of Fort Rosalie, erected in 1716 by the French on the Natchez Bluffs, and a site for the park's administrative headquarters.

To date, only the Mel-

rose acquisition has been funded. Congress has also authorized the NPS to establish preservation districts as a part of the park to further facilitate the preservation and interpretation of historic resources in Natchez.

The NPS is purchasing Melrose from Mr. and Mrs. John D. Callon, owners of the property since 1976. The Trust for Public Land, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of significant natural and historic properties by public agencies, is acting as intermediary in the Melrose acquisition.

Local officials anticipate that the establishment of Natchez National Historical Park will benefit the tourism sector of the economy of Natchez and Adams County.

The City of Natchez is currently working with Davidson-Peterson Associates of York, Maine, to complete a tourism master plan which will provide a strategy for marketing Natchez both as a tourist destination and as a site for conventions and meetings.

The plan is premised upon the fact that Natchez's many historic resources, including Natchez National Historical Park, form the basis of the local tourism industry.

Another factor affecting the growth of tourism in Natchez is that simultaneously with the development of Natchez National Historical Park over the next decade, the NPS will also be completing the Natchez Trace Parkway which begins in Natchez and terminates in Nashville, Tennessee.

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page 39

CPRAM ...Award...

May 18, 1990

Carolyn V. Smith

The College Public Relations Association of Mississippi
awards this certificate of excellence to

COPIAH LINCOLN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

for THE NATCHEZ TRACE: ITS LITERARY LEGACY

SECOND place in the POSTER, JR. DIV.

Colleen Huntfield
President

Sharon Ward
Awards Chairman

Thursday
MAY 3, 1990
WOLF TALES

In Natchez

Literary Festival to feature writers, scholars, activities

On June 7, 8, and 9, Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez will sponsor an exciting educational and cultural event called "The Natchez Trace: Its Literary Legacy."

Scholars and writers including Miss Eudora Welty, Dr. Clayton James, Dr. Margaret Walker Alexander, Dr. Robert Remini, and many others will be present to deliver lectures on fiction and non-fiction inspired by the Natchez Trace. The Honorable William Winter will be Director of Proceedings.

Interspersed among the lectures will be a number of special events; the dedication on Thursday afternoon, June 7,

of the riverside mansion Rosalie as Natchez' newest National Historic Landmark; a tour of the southern end of the Natchez Trace; the dedication on Saturday afternoon of a historic marker honoring Natchez native, Richard Wright; a reception at National Historic Landmark, Stanton Hall, on Saturday evening; and a performance of the musical version of Welty's "The Robber Bridegroom," which is set on the Trace.

Another special event will be the dedication of the antebellum mansion, Melrose, to the National Park Service as the first segment of the new Natchez

National Historical Park. The ceremony will be held at 6:30 p.m., Friday, June 8, at Melrose. Secretary of the Interior, Manuel Lujan, will present the keynote address; the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra will perform; and there will be refreshments and a tour. Senators and congressmen will attend, as well as other public officials, officials from The Trust for Public Land, the National Park Service, and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Tickets may be purchased for the Natchez Literary Celebration by writing Natchez Literary Celebration, P. O. Box 2282, Natchez, MS 39121.

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10E ■ The Clarion-Ledger ■ Sunday, May 27, 1990

Thursday, 7th

■ **Teach reading:** The Volunteer Center of United Way needs volunteers to be trained as tutors to teach adults to read. Training is 1 to 4 p.m. at the Volunteer Center, 843 North President St. in Jackson. For details, call 354-1765.

■ **Natchez celebrates literature:** Mississippi author Eudora Welty lends an educational and cultural festival beginning today at 10:30 a.m. at the Natchez Eola Hotel in Natchez and continuing through June 9. Registration is from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. today. Cost for a full three-day package ticket is \$300. Single event tickets range from \$10 to \$35. For details, contact Carolyn Vance Smith at 442-9111.

■ **Dealer's choice:** The Brookhaven Parks and Recreation Department offers the American Contract Bridge League Club Series of eight two-hour lessons beginning today at 9:30 a.m. at the Depot. For details, call 833-3791.

Opinion

The Natchez Democrat

TUESDAY, MAY 29, 1990 4A

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Literary celebration should be great fun

In 10 days, the first Natchez Literary Celebration begins, bringing to Natchez a number of distinguished visitors and giving hometown people an opportunity to take part in an interesting three-day affair.

The celebration, sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, will be about more than literature, although many of the distinguished guests will come to talk about the Natchez Trace and literary works that relate to the historic trail linking Natchez and Nashville.

The event also will mark the dedication of Natchez's new national park at Melrose and the dedication of antebellum Rosalie as the most recent in a long list of National Historic Landmarks in Natchez.

Miss-Lou Magazine

FREE COPY

June 1990

Melrose dedication highlights Literary Festival

The Natchez Park Service will host the dedication of Melrose as a national park facility Saturday, June 9, beginning at 6:30 p.m. on the grounds of Melrose. Senator Thad Cochran, Congressman Mike Parker, the Secretary of the Interior, park officials, state and local dignitaries will join the dedication ceremonies. Planned events include speechmaking, an open house, refreshments, and a sunset performance by the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra. The dedication and other events are open to the public.

The park dedication highlights a weekend of celebration centering around the Natchez Literary Festival. June 7-9, a literary symposium that organizers hope will become an annual event. Lectures by noted historians, tours of antebellum homes, a theater performance, and a reading by noted Mississippi author, Eudora Welty, keynote the weekend festival. Co-Lin Community College instructors Becky Jankin Holloway, Kenneth Taylor and Carolyn Vance Smith are coordinating the literary festival. Stewart Johnson,

park director and administrator for the Natchez National Historic Park is in charge of preparations for the Melrose dedication.

Congress is considering an additional appropriation of 4.4 million dollars for park planning and future development. Local tourism officials expect Congress to appropriate some funds in fiscal year 1991 for that additional development, and they hope the establishment of the park, the dedication, and media attention will enhance Natchez's reputation as a vacation spot.

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PREMIERE ISSUE, see page 6 for details.

BULK RATE
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Natchez Trace News EXPLORER

A chronicle of events and happenings along the Natchez Trace, past and present

Volume 1, Number 1

June 1990

Set for June in Natchez

Literary Conference to showcase Trace

Page 8

Literary

continued from p. 1
presented in cooperation with the Natchez National Foundation, the Foundation, the Department of Archives and the National Park Service, the Natchez Little Theatre, the Judge George W. Armstrong Library, the Natchez Historical Society, the Natchez Pilgrimage Tours and other groups.

The literary experts who will present the stirring story of the Natchez Trace's impact on literature and history are as follows:

- Eudora Welty of Jackson,

**by Kelley Crook
Special to the News**

Famed Mississippi author Eudora Welty and a host of other American writers and scholars will lead an educational and cultural festival in Natchez, Mississippi in June called "The Natchez Trace: Its Literary Legacy."

The festival, sponsored by

Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez and financially assisted by the National Endowment for the Humanities through the Mississippi Humanities Council, will take place June 7-9, 1990.

The event will provide 10 scholarly lectures and panel discussions as well as

author of *Annie Sullivan* Natchez and an authority on Douglas MacArthur, will speak on "The Role of the Natchez Trace in the Development of the Nation."

- Dr. Robert V. Remini of the University of Illinois. According to *The New York Times*, Remini is the world's foremost authority on Andrew Jackson. He will speak on "Andrew

numerous educational and social events including the formal dedication of National Historic Landmark, Melrose, as the first property to be acquired for America's newest park, the Natchez National Historical Park.

Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan will deliver the keynote address and the Trace of Violence.

- Jack Elliott of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Elliott, who determined exact site of the Fort of Natchez in 1988, will speak on "The Fort Natchez and the Beginning Natchez Trace."

- Dr. Hil Carter of The Mississippian University for Women, Columbia.

Mississippi Symphony Orchestra will perform. Director of proceedings will be William Winter of Jackson, former governor of Mississippi and longtime president of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History's board of trustees.

On June 8, the formal

dedication of the Natchez National Historical Park will be held. *1990 part 1 page 43*

Reader takes pride in Literary Celebration

To the editor:

Many people write articles for this column to express grievances, or to make pleas. However, this article was written to express by pride in regards to The Natchez Literary Celebration. This event was held from June 7 to June 9. In attendance were many prominent people in the fields of literature, history, and politics. From my conversations with some of them, they were favorably impressed with the celebration, as well as with Natchez.

As a native Natchezian, I could not help but be proud. Many of these people expressed a desire to return to the city. However, the success of this event was no accident. It was the result of the hard work put forth by the staff at the local Copiah-Lincoln Community College Campus. This is especially true of the celebration's organizer, Carolyn Vance Smith.

Under her guidance some of the most noted writers and researchers on the area were speakers at the celebration. Smith saw to their every need. She even gave a large dinner party in their honor in her own home. They

Letters

seemed completely charmed by Smith. Any accolades that Natchez receives for the event can be attributed to her efforts. In her endeavors she has established new heights and standards to gauge Natchez hospitality. Hopefully, in the future we will be able to maintain these new standards.

I also want to compliment the Natchez Little Theater performers. They did an excellent job performing "The Robber Bridegroom." It can only be hoped that this production will become an annual event. Bravo, Natchez Little Theater, bravo!

In retrospect all of Natchez should be proud. This event is the start of a new chapter in Natchez history. We are about to become more of a focus to the rest of the world. If the Natchez Literary Celebration is any indication, then we are more than ready.

H. Clark Burkett
Natchez resident

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Trace festival would make Mrs. Byrnes proud

NATCHEZ—Roane Fleming Byrnes would have been proud of all the celebrity attention her beloved Natchez Trace was given here last week.

Although she passed away 20 years ago, Mrs. Byrnes is still a legend here as the prime mover in the 1940s, '50s and '60s in pushing federal and state officials to restore the 444-mile long pioneer trail as a national parkway.

It was Mrs. Byrnes, a grand dame of Natchez in her wide-brimmed, floppy hat, who kept alive the dream that someday the Natchez Trace, the frontier gateway to the old Southwest, would be reborn for modern day travel all the way from Natchez to Nashville.

Now, all but 40 miles of the Natchez Trace Parkway are open to travellers to retrace the route of Andrew Jackson on his triumphant return to Nashville after his victory in the Battle of New Orleans that ended the War of 1812.

Another 20 miles of the Parkway are under construction and will be open to travel within several months.

Meantime, last week there were events galore here to celebrate the rich history and literary legacy of the Natchez Trace and mark the addition of several historically valuable attractions to be enjoyed in the future by visitors to this old river city.

The events were part of a three-day



Bill Minor

Syndicated columnist

celebration built around the theme, "The Natchez Trace: Its Literary Legacy," sponsored by the Natchez Campus of Copiah-Lincoln Community College, and financially assisted by the National Endowment for the Humanities, and The Mississippi Humanities Council with cooperation of several groups.

It brought together several nationally prominent figures in the field of history to discuss the historical significance of the Natchez Trace and some of the great figures of American history who trod the frontier wilderness road.

From Dr. Robert Remini, professor of history at the University of Illinois in Urbana, considered the top historian on Andrew Jackson, came the revelation that Natchez was always one of Jackson's favorite places long before

his historic return from the Battle of New Orleans.

A letter from a Natchez merchant in 1790 listing items which Jackson had ordered "first and foremost were wine and rum, and also snuff boxes."

Remini related his version of the celebrated pursuit and "marriage" of Jackson to Rachel Donelson Robards that was supposed to have taken place in Natchez, presumably in the summer of 1791.

Jackson, who had fallen in love with Rachel Robards, the wife of Lewis Robards, made the "impetuous" decision to flee with Rachel from Nashville in January, 1791 after Robards had left her in a rage and moved to Kentucky.

After depositing Rachel with friends in Natchez, Jackson had returned to Nashville in May over the Natchez Trace. There in Nashville, Jackson received what he thought was word that Robards had divorced his wife.

Without waiting to ascertain the validity of the divorce, Jackson hastened back to Natchez to marry Rachel. That marriage is supposed by some accounts, and local lore, to have taken place at Springfield Plantation outside Natchez in the late summer of 1791.

But, says Remini, "there is no (written) proof that the marriage ever took

place."

Then two years after the return of Rachel and Jackson to Nashville via the Natchez Trace, they discovered that all Robards had obtained was an act from Virginia Legislature for the right to sue for divorce, "but Robards had not availed himself of it."

It was not until September, 1793 that Robards' divorce from Rachel actually became valid, thereupon Jackson immediately married.

There was ample evidence that Jackson was a slave owner and a slave trader, Remini said.

Poignantly, one of the events here was the dedication of a historic marker honoring the noted writer Richard Wright, a Natchez native and descendant of slaves.

Not until recent years has Mississippi accorded Wright, whose powerful book "Native Son" in 1940 is considered one of the masterpieces of American Literature, recognition as a distinguished Mississippian.

At the other end of the broad spectrum encompassed by last week's celebration was the dedication of the stately pre-Civil War mansion, Melrose, as a cornerstone of the nation's newest national park, and an anchor of the Natchez Trace Parkway.

Yes, Mrs. Byrnes would be proud

6/14/90

Natchez Democrat

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Jackson wedding only lacks paper

To the editor: *6/14/98 Ntz. Dem.*

Although I have explained the situation of the marriage of Andrew Jackson at Springfield Plantation time and again, and *The Natchez Democrat* has carried every word, in addition to the brief but good explanation twice a year in the *Pilgrimage* editions, and my book on the subject in 1987, I feel that it is only fair to the record of history, Springfield, and, indeed, the Jacksons themselves, to address the statements quoted on the front page of today's *Natchez Democrat* (June 8) from the address yesterday by Dr. Robert Remini.

It is most unfortunate that historians like Dr. Remini, who is indeed a very fine one, and a charming person, don't explain what they mean when they make such statements as "There is not proof of the Jackson marriage at

Springfield," (or, indeed, anywhere else in West Florida). To the historically untrained public, such a statement is taken to mean that there is really no real evidence in support of the marriage. And nothing could be further from the truth!

The marriage of Andrew Jackson in West Florida (Mississippi) and at Springfield has been supported by strong testimonial evidence for nearly 200 years, much of it by personal friends of Jackson, and the first published account in a book dates to 1872.

The proper terminology, then, would be that the marriage is supported by testimonial but by no known written document.

However, the fact that Rachel lived with the family of Col. Thomas Green when she was in West Florida is absolutely documented by the U.S. Telegraph, a Washington, D.C. newspaper in 1828.

Since the marriage itself was not legal under the Spanish law, it is doubtful any legal document will ever turn up.

Arthur E. LaSalle
President
The Historic Springfield Plantation,
Inc.
Springfield Plantation

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ENTERTAINMENT

A THEATRICAL SALUTE TO EUDORA WELTY

by Gus the Theatre Cat

In conjunction with the Natchez Literary Celebration, Copiah-Lincoln Community College proudly presented the Natchez Little Theatre's exciting production of the rollicking, foot-stomping operetta, *THE ROBBER BRIDEGROOM*, based on Eudora Welty's novella of the same name. The story was adapted by Alfred Uhry, author of the award-winning play and movie, *DRIVING MISS DAISY*, who also wrote the delightful lyrics. Robert Waldman created the musical score, using both original tunes and adaptations of traditional fiddle music. The operetta was presented at the Natchez Little Theatre Playhouse each evening of the Literary Celebration (Thursday, Friday and Saturday, June 7, 8 and 9), with curtain-time at 8:45 p.m., to allow time to enjoy the early evening events scheduled for these dates.

Eudora Welty has created a mosaic of traditional stories of the Natchez Trace blended with classic elements of folk-tale and fairy-tale. The play takes place in and around Rodney, Mississippi, during Territorial days. Townspeople assemble for a barn-dance, and reenact the tale of Jamie Lockhart and Rosamund, star-crossed lovers.

Natchez audiences were delighted by the antics of such favorites as Susi Shiplet, JoLynn Smith, and Frank and Babs Sidorowicz in the roles of Salome (the Wicked Stepmother), Rosamund (the not-so-innocent ingenue), Little Harp (the notorious robber) and Raven (his pet bird). Kelly Price returned to NLT after too long an absence in the role of Jamie Lockhart, the double-identity

gentleman-bandit. The role of Big Harp was played by Nick Mowen, who appeared earlier this year as Mushnik in *LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS*, and Vera George, a newcomer, took the role of Clement Musgrove, richest planter in Mississippi, trusting husband of Salome and loving father of Rosamund. Andrew Bryan, a thirteen-year-old student at Trinity

Episcopal Day School played the "famous Goat of Rodney," while Ann Siddall was seen as Goat's Mother and Donna Meason as Goat's Sister, Airie. Mike Taunton played Innkeeper Brenner, and Deborah Burnham took the role of his wife Queenie. John Browning, also a student at Trinity, played K.K. Fone and Anna Elliot was seen as Rose Otto.

The cast of *The Robber Bridegroom*.

Photo by T.G. McCarty Photograph

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The Natchez

Natchez readies for first literary celebration

By JOAN GANDY

The Natchez Democrat

NATCHEZ — VIPs and other visitors will begin arriving in Natchez this week for the first annual Natchez Literary Celebration and the round of festivities connected with it.

The event is sponsored by Capital-Lincoln Community College and coordinated by those of the college's Natchez campus instructors: Carolyn Watson Smith, Kenneth Taylor and Buddy Jenkins Holloway.

Lectures, exhibits and tours during the three-day celebration will center on the theme, "The Natchez Trail: Its Literary Legacy," with The Natchez State Hotel serving as headquarters.

Proceeds from the event will go to the Natchez National Historical Park Foundation, an organization dedicated to furthering the success of the new park. Tickets for the entire celebration or for individual events are tax deductible.

"Tickets still are available," Smith said. "And we hope all of Natchez understands that many of the exciting events require no tickets at all. And everyone is invited."

A highlight of the celebration will be at 8:30 p.m. Friday, when Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan Jr. dedicates antebellum Melrose as the first property purchased for the national park.

This event is one of the first events at which Smith hopes to see a large crowd of Natchezians, she said.

"The dedication of the park is the culmination of the hard work of many people, some of whom will be there to get recognition for the parts they played," Smith said. "It is only fitting that

we have a huge crowd there to say thank-you for the national park."

The park was established by law in 1988 and funded in 1989. In addition to Melrose, the only property purchased so far, the park is expected to include the site of historic Fort Rosalie on the Natchez bluff and the William Johnson House on Swan Street.

The establishment of the park coincides with near completion of the 430-mile Natchez Trace Parkway and the park eventually should serve as the southern terminus of the parkway.

The literary celebration will include a tour of the trace, including stops at Indian sites and at antebellum Brandon Hall, a palatial mansion located just off the parkway.

Three performances of "The Rubber Bridgegroom" will be presented by the Natchez Little Theatre — at 8:45 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Tickets for those performances are \$18, and some seats are still available, Smith said.

"The Rubber Bridgegroom" is a lively musical version of a novella by Mississippi author Rudens Wely. The story is set on the Natchez Trace.

"This musical is going to be a treat," Smith said. "And Rudens Wely herself is going to attend the Saturday performance." Wely's attendance at the musical will follow her own after-dinner performance at the Carriage House Restaurant, where she will read from her short story, "A Worn Path."

Schedule of events

Here is a list of events and how much each costs with an individual ticket. The list also includes the free events. A \$200 ticket includes all events.

Individual tickets are \$13 each. The lineup is:

■ Thursday at 11 a.m.: "The Role of the Natchez Trace in the Development of the Nation," by D. Clayton James.

■ Thursday at 1:30 p.m.: "Andrew Jackson's Adventures on the Natchez Trace," by Dr. Robert Smith.

■ Thursday at 3 p.m.: "A Trace of Violence," by Dr. John D. W. Galt.

■ Thursday at 4 p.m.: "The Port of Natchez and the Beginnings of the Natchez Trace," by Jack Wilson.

■ Friday at 9 a.m.: "Minorities and their use of the Natchez Trace," by Dr. Ken Carter and Dr. Robert Jenkins.

■ Friday at 10:30 a.m.: "The Trace of the Old Southwest in 'The Birth of America' (I). Audubon's Drawings and Writings from the Natchez Trace," by Dr. Doug Lewis.

■ Friday at 11:30 a.m.: "The Natchez Trace: A Treasury for

America," by Dale Smith.

■ Saturday at 9 a.m.: "The Mississippi Frontier in Faulkner's Fiction and in Fact," by Dr. Don H. Doyle.

■ Saturday at 11 a.m.: "Natchez in Southern American Literature with Emphasis on Richard Wright," by Dr. Margaret Walker Alexander.

■ Saturday at 2 p.m.: "The Natchez Trace in Rudens Wely's Fiction," by Dr. Michael Kweyling. Dr. Suzanne Marrs and Dr. Peggy W. Rhoades.

Performances of "The Rubber Bridgegroom" are 18¢ per person. The performances are:

■ Thursday at 8:45 p.m. at the Natchez Little Theatre playhouse on Linton Avenue.

■ Friday at 8:45 p.m. at the Natchez Little Theatre playhouse on Linton Avenue.

■ Saturday at 8:45 p.m. at the Natchez Little Theatre playhouse on Linton Avenue.

The dedication of antebellum Rosalie at the end of Broadway, National Historic Landmark ceremonies and tours of the house are free.

■ Thursday at 3:45 p.m. at

antebellum Rosalie at the end of Broadway, National Historic Landmark ceremonies and tours of the house are free.

■ Thursday, following ceremonies and tours, a southern-style picnic on the bluffs at Rosalie overlooking the Mississippi River.

A guided tour of the Natchez Trace is \$23 per person.

■ Friday from 2 to 3 p.m., a guided tour of the Natchez Trace includes stops at the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians, Mount Locust, where there will be refreshments and demonstrations, Ebenezer Mound, an Indian site, and antebellum Brandon Hall, which rarely opens for tours.

The dedication of Melrose and all refreshments and entertainment there are free.

■ Friday at 6:30 p.m., Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan Jr. will dedicate Melrose as a national park. Other dignitaries will attend. The Jackson Symphony Pops Orchestra will perform. Refreshments will be served and tours of the house given.

Three events on Saturday will be free: an autograph party, tour of all of the ceremonies, an informal

tour of Natchez's Antiques Row and the dedication of a historical marker or to honor Richard Wright.

■ Sunday at 10 a.m.: An autograph party at The Boka will honor lecturers who have taken part in the first annual Natchez Literary Celebration.

■ Saturday at 1:30 p.m.: An informal tour of Natchez's Antiques Row with light refreshments served along the way.

■ Saturday at 4 p.m.: The dedication of a historical marker honoring Natchez native and author Richard Wright at the end of Main Street on the bluff.

The final event of the celebration — other than the final performance of "The Rubber Bridgegroom," which will follow at 8:45 — will include a reception, dinner and a reading by Rudens Wely. Tickets are \$23 each.

■ Saturday at 6 p.m.: A reception at antebellum Sumner Hall and a tour of the house.

■ Saturday at 7 p.m.: Dinner at the Carriage House Restaurant, followed by a reading from the short story, "A Worn Path," by its author, Mississippi's Rudens Wely.

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STATE/METRO

National park considering its next Natchez acquisition

■ A House bill would allow the park service to buy an ex-slave's house.

By Joe Atkins
Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON — The 149-year-old home of freed slave and diarist William Johnson of Natchez could become part of the Natchez National Historical Park.

A House subcommittee today will examine a bill to allow the National Park Service to take possession of the two-story brick home, restore and maintain it.

The home "gives a unique dimension to the park in Natchez that is different from any other national park in the country," said Rep. Mike Parker of Mississippi, the bill's author whose 4th District includes Natchez.

Built in 1841, the home at 210 S. State belonged to a barber whose diary is "the most complete account of the life of a free black in the antebellum South," said Mary Warren Miller, architectural historian with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Among those scheduled to testify Tuesday before the House Interior Subcommittee on National Parks are Parker, Elbert Hilliard, director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History; and Phillip C. West, president of the Adams County Board of Supervisors.

Johnson was born a slave in Natchez in 1809 and became a barber after his white owner — and probable father — freed him in 1820. By the 1840s, he was a prosperous landholder, but in 1851 he was murdered.

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History is in the process of purchasing the Johnson home from the Natchez-based Preservation Society of Ellicott Hill. The department would donate the structure to the National Park Service.

Ken P'Pool, director of the historical preservation division, said the society seeks only what it has spent to stabilize the house the last few years — probably \$60,000 to \$70,000.

About \$500,000 will be needed to complete restoration of the home, according to Parker's office.

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MISSISSIPPI DEATHS — 2
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TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 1990

B

The Natchez

Festival creators pleased

■ Natchez native returns, 34.

By KATH BRITT

The Natchez Democrat

NATCHEZ — For those behind the scenes scurrying to complete the final details of "The Natchez Trace: Its Literary Legacy," dreams are finally turning into reality.

And it's especially exciting for the creator, Carolyn Vance Smith.

"It's been a real joy seeing something come to fruition that has never been supported here in. This is just one more facet of the rich cultural background of the Natchez," Smith



BECKY JUNKIN HOLLOWAY, Kenneth Taylor and Carolyn Vance Smith have spearheaded the weekend activities.

said.

"I feel humble that I have been enabled to bring to pass something that has not with such fervor with so many people."

Smith, an English and literature instructor at the Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez campus, came up with the original idea after attending similar events at the University of Mississippi and the University of Texas.

"I thought, 'Why couldn't we do something like that here with the Natchez Trace involving literature and history?'" she said.

One thing led to another, and Co-Lin decided to sponsor and fund the event.

Billy Thomas, president, and the board of trustees supported the idea and gave it a budget. Then Smith asked two others to help plan the festival. Becky Junkin Holloway and Kenneth Taylor, Holloway is an instructor in the food-services department and Taylor is an economics instructor.

"We divided the responsibilities because

each is excellent in their fields," Smith said. "Becky handles what she calls the 'creature comforts' and Kenneth is handling all the financial affairs."

She said her greatest joy is the widespread support for the event.

"It's not just Natchez, but the state of Mississippi," she added. "Everybody has been so enthusiastic."

For a year now, Holloway has been planning the housing arrangements and hospitality for the conference.

"This will help place Natchez on the map and let more people know about Co-Lin," she said. "I talk with people every day, who don't know we have a campus out here on Rollins Road."

Taylor agrees. "In the long run, this will benefit Natchez and Co-Lin. It will show what kind of school we have to plan and produce something like this. We may be small, but we are first class."

Events

The festival weekend highlights a myriad of events, including:

■ Bonfire's dedication as a historic landmark, 5:45 p.m. Thursday.

■ Nightly performances of "The Rubber Bridge Room," a musical based on a novella by Eudora Welty.

■ The dedication of Malheur to the Natchez National Historical Park, 6:30 p.m. Friday.

■ The placing of a historic marker to honor Natchez native Richard Wright's birthplace, 4 p.m. Saturday.

Natchez celebrates

Special section
inside today
previews "The Natchez Trace:
Its Literary Legacy"



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Natchez native returns to lecture at festival

By MARCY RIVINIUS
The Natchez Democrat

NATCHEZ — More than 20 years ago, D. Clayton James wrote a book about Natchez history. Thursday he will be given the opportunity to again share his knowledge with area residents.

James will present the opening lecture of the "The Natchez Trace: Its Literary Legacy" at 11 a.m. in The Natchez Eola Hotel.

He wrote a book about Natchez titled "Antebellum Natchez." It was published by Louisiana State University Press in 1968 and reprinted in 1979. No other "definitive" works on Natchez history have been written since then, James said, so he was chosen to give the lecture.

He is not planning to write any

further books about Natchez, he said, because he has no connection with Natchez history anymore. "I am strictly in a totally different world," he said.

James' speech is titled "The Role of the Natchez Trace in the Development of the Nation." It will focus on three perspectives of the time period between the 1780s and 1830s, the "heyday of the Trace," he said.

He will discuss the transportation revolution, compare the Trace to other major roads of the time period, and analyze how the Trace influenced national economic, political and social strategies, he said.

James was born in Kentucky but moved to Natchez when he was a baby. He stayed here until he went to college in 1953. He comes back occasionally because his sister and some friends live

here, he said.

James received a bachelor's degree from Southwestern-at-Memphis College, which is now Rhodes College, and master's and doctorate degrees from the University of Texas, Austin. He has also attended the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and the University of Cincinnati.

James has taught history and military history. Besides his book about Natchez, he has written five other books, including a three-volume series on General Douglas MacArthur.

He now has an endowed position in military history at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Va. He specializes in 20th century military and diplomatic issues. He and his wife, Irene, have four children and three grandchildren.



CLAYTON JAMES to speak
Thursday

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Rosalie dedication to top festival's first day

■ *Start on the festival, page 3A.
By JACOB ELIOTT
The Natchez Democrat*

NATCHEZ — Antebellum Rosalie will have its moment of the American Musical Lullaby II at 5:45 p.m. today, marking the first of three days in a festival celebration.

Lullaby will be on hand for another day designating Rosalie a National Historic Landmark, giving the 1823 brick mansion the nation's highest status as a historic monument and bringing to 31 the number of such landmarks in Natchez.

The Mississippi Chapter of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution says Rosalie and is headquartered there.

A ceremony in the DARR Bicentennial Garden, overlooking the Mississippi River, will follow the dedication ceremonies.

Lullaby will remain through Friday, when the formally dedicated Museum will open its museum to surrounding sites at Natchez's new national park. The dedication is part of "The Natchez Trail to Literary Legacy," a first-time event titled as a literary celebration sponsored by Capital-Literary Community College to honor the Natchez National Historical Park Foundation. The festival opens at 10:30 a.m. today at The Natchez State Hotel, where Lullaby will begin a series of programs leading the viewer to the river.

"This will bring a lot of visibility and credibility to our campus and we hope more recognition to the entire community," said Dr. Billy B. Thomas, president of Capital.

He said on Wednesday the project has taken a great deal of time from college personnel, but that the effort has been worth it.

Most visitors have been told to embrace the college's Natchez campus, Capital vice-president Barbara Pomeroy said last Wednesday.

Pomeroy, serving as publicity chairman and executive secretary for the festival, said beginning today all tickets will be sold at the registration desk in the lobby of the hotel, corner of Pearl and Main streets.

Jack D. Elliott, festival organizing chairman, said the Mississippi Department of Archives

Events

- Today's activities include:
 - 10:30 a.m., Welcome by Billy B. Thomas, Capital president
 - 11 a.m., "The Role of the Natchez Trail in the Development of the Nation," Dr. Clayton James
 - 1:30 p.m., "Andrew Jackson's Adversities on the Natchez Trail," Robert V. Brown
 - 3 p.m., "A Trail of Violence," John D.W. Colet
 - 4 p.m., "The Fate of Natchez and the Beginning of the Natchez Trail," Jack Elliott
 - 5:45 p.m., Commemorative designating Rosalie a National Historic Landmark, at Rosalie
 - 8:45 p.m., "The Natchez Antebellum," at the Natchez State Hotel

All activities, reported where noted, are at The Natchez State Hotel.

and History, is one of today's sponsors. He stresses its diversity as a key player in Natchez's national park story.

Elliot's 1987 research on the 1716 French Fort Rosalie marked another step and in efforts to gain national recognition for the site and then dedicated with National Park Service efforts to purchase interest.

His program today, "The Fate of Natchez and the Beginning of the Natchez Trail," has been a dedication since then to even open to other part of the literary celebration, he said from his office in Nashville last week.

"We have really been turned out to



JACK ELLIOTT stands on the Natchez bluff at the site of Fort Rosalie, which is expected to be a future acquisition for the Natchez National Historical Park. Elliott's research in 1987 led to national recognition for the 1716 French fort. Today, Elliott will speak at the opening of "The Natchez Trail to Literary Legacy" at The Natchez State Hotel. The Democrat photo by O. Bradley Bounce.

to more philosophical of the historical," he said. "It looks as if we are going to have a place and a time to be significant."

A park built at the Natchez national park is a good example. The Natchez park, established in 1988 and opened in 1990, is expected to expand to include the Fort Rosalie site and, with a 1990 anniversary, the William Jackson House, built in the 1840s by a then black man.

"In looking for the park, we will be part of Natchez to expand the area," he said.

Thinking back on the past two years, Elliott pointed out, however, when the Natchez State Hotel was

one of a national park in Natchez. "There were so many fortunate events — beginning with my opening the door and having it happen while the festival was coming to Natchez," he said of the October 1987 presentation in the west Ardmore and Henry Road.

"Then it was so good to get that as a good presentation and then Rosalie as a great conclusion," he said, referring to Natchez Bicentennial and volunteer activities and park foundation director and former Rosalie owner, who in 1988 and 1993, respectively, formed committees for Bicentennial and the opening of the park.



ANTEBELLUM ROSALIE is a new National Historical Landmark.

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Trace a crown jewel in park service treasures

By KATHIE SMITH

The Natchez Democrat
Staff Columnist — From the majestic Great Caverns to the Blue Ridge Parkway winding through the Smoky Mountains, the National Park Service is filled with natural treasures.

And one of the jewels is the Natchez Trace Parkway, says Dale L. Smith, head of the parkway's interpretation and visitor services division.

Smith presented a slide show entitled "The Natchez Trace: A Treasure for America," Friday morning as part of the Natchez history celebration sponsored by Capital-Lincoln Community College. He addressed an audience of about 100 people at The Natchez as they dined.

"These (national parks) are truly some of America's treasures," Smith said. "They are art galleries with frames — constantly changing masterpieces."

"They are treasures without glass, arrangements made by a higher authority."

The Natchez Trace Parkway was established in 1938. Today, the highway traces the old route from Natchez to Nashville, Tenn.

The well-worn path was developed in the late 1700s. Men brought goods as well as Natchez from the upper Mississippi River on flatboats. After selling the products, the flatboats were sold and the men began a 600-mile west back route through woods, swamps and Indian territory.

"They would band together in groups and travel, stopping at Indian mounds (small mounds to spend the night and eat)," he said. "Most of the backroads had the traces."

However, by the 1800s the idea of looking a spot on a mountain ridge as a good spot for a mountain cabin on the Trace.

Today the purpose of the Natchez Trace Parkway is to provide a scenic,

natural and historical area. The roadway meanders through the Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee countryside. The drive features historic mounds, a tobacco farm, Indian mounds, nature trails, swimming spots and campgrounds.

The highway is closed to commercial traffic. The 50 mile per hour speed limit is used to allow travelers to relax and enjoy the surroundings.

Smith urged members of the audience to drive the Trace and enjoy the sites such as Mount Locust just outside of Natchez. The renovated inn was the first stop for travelers leaving the river city.

"It flows like a stream and gives focus to the land," Smith said. "The Natchez Trace seeks to create a long last chapter of American History."

■ ■ ■

The final history of the day dealt with minorities in the Natchez Trace history.

The war minority on the Natchez Trace between 1750 and 1812 was a group of "half-blooded" Scottish-Cherokee Indians," says Kit Carson, a Mississippi University for Women history professor.

A Scottish lad named James Logan Collier, 23, came to America in 1740 after a lot participated in a revolt in Scotland. He was among many Scots who landed in Georgia.

Collier became a trader and associated with the Chickasaw Indians in northern Mississippi. He joined in their ritual customs, marrying three wives.

He had two sons and began a dynasty of leadership among the Chickasaw. Despite being based in north Mississippi, Collier traded with people as far away as the Bahamas.

The leadership ended after the United States government bought the land containing Chickasaw land and the last son died in the mid 1770s.



DALE SMITH sees the Trace as a treasure for America. The Democrat/Kathie Smith

Robert Jackson, a history professor at Mississippi State University, spoke with crowd about the role of blackmen in the Natchez Trace.

He said very few blacks traveled the road as free traders. Most were moved up and down the path as slaves being brought into the South as he said.

The early black presence on the Trace was as slaves working in the

fields, iron and plantations," he said. "Whites checked would walk 20 miles a day when being sent South to Maryland to be sold."

Black soldiers fighting for the Union Army during the Civil War also traveled the Trace.

"Despite the dangers and consequences of their actions, they fought," he said. "They were fighting to be free."

THE NATCHEZ DEMOCRAT, Natchez, Miss.

Saturday, June 8, 1990

Natchez celebrates

PHOTO above p. 1
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The Natchez Trace: Its Literary Legacy

June 7-9, 1990



Natchez, Mississippi

This educational event features scholarly lectures, readings, and discussions of some of the literary wealth associated with the Natchez Trace. The event also provides the historical settings for these works, settings which will be explored through specially designed tours, meals, ceremonies, and entertainments.

Except where noted, all events will take place at The Natchez Eola Hotel, 110 North Pearl Street, Natchez.

Thursday, June 7, 1990

- 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.:** Check-in and Coffee.
Informal Tour of the Historic Natchez Collection,
Historic Natchez Foundation, 409 Franklin Street
- 10:30 a.m.:** Welcome, Dr. Billy B. Thomas, President,
Copiah-Lincoln Community College District
- Introduction of Literary Celebration Co-chairmen:
Becky Junkin Holloway, Carolyn Vance Smith, and Kenneth
Taylor, Faculty Members at the Natchez Campus of Copiah-
Lincoln Community College
- Introduction of the Director of Proceedings:
The Honorable William Winter
President, Board of Trustees
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Jackson, Mississippi
- 11:00 a.m.:** "The Role of the Natchez Trace in the Development
of the Nation"
Dr. D. Clayton James
Biggs Chair in Military History
The Virginia Military Institute
Lexington, Virginia

- 1:30 p.m.:** "Andrew Jackson's Adventures on the Natchez Trace"
Dr. Robert V. Remini
Professor of History and Research Professor of Humanities
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois
- 2:30 p.m.:** Coffee
- 3:00 p.m.:** "A Trace of Violence?"
Dr. John D.W. Guise
Professor of History
The University of Southern Mississippi
Hattiesburg, Mississippi
- 4:00 p.m.:** "The Fort of Natchez and the Beginning of
the Natchez Trace"
Mr. Jack Elliott
Historical Archaeologist
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
West Point, Mississippi
- 5:45 p.m.:** Ceremonies Designating Rosalie a National Historic
Landmark. Followed by a Tour of Rosalie and an Informal
Picnic in the Rosalie Garden Near the Site of the Fort of Natchez,
Overlooking the Mississippi River on the Natchez Street
- 8:45 p.m.:** "The Robber Bridgroom," A Musical Version of
Eudora Welty's Novella Set on the Natchez Trace
The Natchez Little Theatre, Linton Avenue

Friday, June 8, 1990

- 9:00 a.m.:** "Minorities and Their Use of the Natchez Trace"
Dr. Kit Carter
Professor of History
Mississippi University for Women
Columbus, Mississippi
- Dr. Robert Jenkins
Assistant Professor of History
Mississippi State University
Mississippi State, Mississippi
- 10:00 a.m.:** Coffee
- 10:30 a.m.:** "The Trace of the Old Southwest in The Birds of
America: J.J. Audubon's Drawings and Writings from the
Natchez District"
Dr. Douglas Lewis
Curator of Sculpture and Decorative Arts
National Gallery of Art
Washington, D.C.
- 11:30 a.m.:** "The Natchez Trace: A Treasure for America"
Mr. Dale Smith
Chief of Interpretation, Natchez Trace Parkway
The National Park Service
Tupelo, Mississippi
- 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.:** Guided Tour of the Natchez Trace, with
stops at The Grand Village of the Natchez Indians, Mount
Locust, Emerald Mound, and Brandon Hall
- 6:30 p.m.:** Reception, Tour, and Official Ceremonies at Melrose,
a National Historic Landmark on Melrose Avenue, Dedication
the Property to the National Park Service
- 8:45 p.m.:** Repeat Performance of "The Robber Bridgroom"
at The Natchez Little Theatre

Saturday, June 9, 1990

- 9:00 a.m.:** "The Mississippi Frontier in Faulkner's Fiction
and in Fact"
Dr. Don H. Doyle
Chairman of the Department of History
Vanderbilt University
Nashville, Tennessee
- 10:00 a.m.:** Autograph Party Honoring All Lecturers
- 11:00 a.m.:** "Natchez in Southern American Literature with
Emphasis on Richard Wright"
Dr. Margaret Walker Alexander
Professor of English Emerita
Jackson State University
Jackson, Mississippi
- 2:00 p.m.:** "The Natchez Trace in Eudora Welty's Fiction"
Dr. Michael Kroyling
Professor of English
Vanderbilt University
Nashville, Tennessee
- Dr. Peggy W. French
Professor at English
The University of Southern Mississippi
Hattiesburg, Mississippi
- 3:30 p.m.:** Informal Tour of "Antiques Row," Beginning at
612 Franklin Street
- 4:00 p.m.:** Dedication of Historic Marker Honoring Natchez
Native Richard Wright on the Natchez Bluffs
- 6:00 p.m.:** Reception, Stanton Hall, 401 High Street
- 7:00 p.m.:** Dinner, The Carriage House, 401 High Street
After-dinner Reading from "A Warm Path," a Short Story Set
on the Natchez Trace, by its Author
Miss Eudora Welty
Jackson, Mississippi
- 8:45 p.m.:** Repeat Performance of "The Robber Bridgroom"
at The Natchez Little Theatre

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The Natchez Trace: Its Literary Legacy

REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) and Title(s) as Preferred on Name Tag(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Telephone Number _____

Work Telephone Number _____

Total package includes all 10 lectures; refreshment breaks; picnic;
Natchez Trace tour of the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians,
Emerald Mound, Mount Locust, and Brandon Hall with bus trans-
portation; tours and receptions at Rosalie, Melrose, and Stanton
Hall; autograph party; Franklin Street tour; "The Robber Bridg-
room"; and banquet with after-dinner presentation.

Number of total packages @ \$209 each: _____

Preferred night for "The Robber Bridgroom": _____

For the Natchez Trace tour, will you ride the bus? _____

Tickets to individual lectures are \$15 each. Tickets to tours, meals,
and entertainments range from \$10 - \$35. Please call or write for
ticket prices or other information. Send check with this form to
Natchez Literary Celebration, Copiah-Lincoln Community College,

Complete daily packages are available @ \$50 each.

Day preferred: _____

Number of packages: _____ If ordering the Friday package,
will you ride the bus for the Natchez Trace tour? _____

P.O. Box 2282, Natchez, MS 39121. For information call 1-800-
647-6742 or (601) 442-7341. Rooms are available at The Natchez
Eola Hotel, 1-800-888-9140, and at other Natchez hotels and bed-
and-breakfast inns.



JANE GIBSON of the Natchez Art Association displays John J. Audubon's 'The Great Footed Hawk,' one of many works on display this weekend at the Institute. The Democrat/O. Bradley Bounds

Natchez Democrat, Sat. June 9, 1990

Arts institute celebrates opening

By MARCY RIVINIUS
The Natchez Democrat

NATCHEZ — Visitors to the newly-established Natchez Institute of the Arts this weekend can listen to a worldwide traveler, meet a famous painter and tour numerous art exhibits, said Wanda Parsons, administrator of the institute.

An opening ceremony Sunday at 3 p.m. is being held in conjunction with "The Natchez Trace: Its Literary Legacy." The free opening is sponsored by the Natchez Art Association.

Roger Betheridge from Derbyshire, England, will be the featured speaker at the ceremony. His speech is titled "To Travel Hopefully... Pleasures in the Footsteps of Literature and Art."

Betheridge and his wife follow the historical path of literature and art. "They just roam around and trace it down," Parsons said. They travel to the same places that famous writers and artists have gone in the past.

Don Cincione, a world-famous painter who uses

"We have done in these three weeks what ordinarily would have taken us four or five years. By Sunday, we'll be ready to celebrate."

— Wanda Parsons
administrator

bright colors and multi-dimensional effects, also will visit the institute on Sunday. He is from Eros, La., and has lived and worked in Europe. Collectors of his artwork include actor Vincent Price, musician Herby Mancini and the late cartoonist Walt Disney.

Six exhibits are available for viewing from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. today and Sunday. They are:

- A collection of original paintings illustrating the work of author Eudora Welty.

- The Scharff collection of 19th century art that was previously displayed in the Coyle House, a

home on Wall Street owned by the Natchez Historical Society.

- A collection of James J. Audubon paintings.

- A display of four quilts that incorporate aspects of local antebellum and Victorian architecture and were created by Natchez resident Laura Parks.

- A collection of Natchez Trace photographs taken by Harold Young from Jackson.

- About 20 paintings created by members of the Natchez Art Association.

The institute is not chartered yet, but Parsons is confident it will be soon. The association is setting plans for art education, film, photography, writing, dance and music classes.

Because the art association members only had a few weeks to get ready for the opening, the workload has been very heavy. "We have done in these three weeks what ordinarily would have taken us four or five years," Parsons said.

"By Sunday, we'll be ready to celebrate."

Natchez Democrat June 9, 1990

Lewis disputes common belief on Audubon's works

By KEITH BRITT
The Natchez Democrat

NATCHEZ — Was the Wells family plantation in Concordia Parish the site of many of John J. Audubon's famous bird drawings?

Douglas Lewis thinks not.

Lewis, the curator of sculpture and decorative arts at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., said the plantation that exists in Louisiana history is fictitious.

Lewis, a native of Mississippi, lectured on Audubon's drawings in the Natchez area at Friday's session of "The Natchez Trace: Its Literary Legacy."

He said Natchez resident Sim Calton was a direct descendant of the Wells family. And according to research done especially for the celebration, Lewis found the house and grounds never existed.

According to a 1930s history from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Audubon would ferry across the river and paint birds he found on the plantation.

"It's a sad episode in the warping of historical evidence," he said. "That's what I've come to call the Louisiana lobby."

Lewis said the paintings were done in the Natchez area — on the Mississippi side of the river.

Lewis also noted the striking differences which exist between Audubon's paintings begun in Cincinnati in 1820 and those in the 1823, which were the end of his time in Natchez.

"Frankly he went from a bumbling amateur to an accomplished graphic artist," he said.

The first Audubon painting in Mississippi was done just outside of Greenville as he came down the Mississippi River on a flatboat. He says it was probably done while Audubon was stopped at the mouth of the Yazoo



"It's a sad episode in the warping of historical evidence. That's what I've come to call the Louisiana lobby."

— Douglas Lewis

River. Audubon's first work in Natchez is dated Christmas Day in 1822.

Interestingly, Lewis noted Audubon drew only the birds in the paintings. The flowers and other background were done by his partner Joseph Mason. However, Mason only received credit on two works.

"He (Mason) is the inventor of the great Audubon style," Lewis said. He added as Mason, who was 18 when he began with Audubon in 1820, grew as an artist as his associate did.

As Mason's backgrounds became more complex and detailed, Audubon's birds seemed to move and interact rather than remain still sitting on a lone branch.

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Events

- Today's events include:
- 9 a.m. — The 30th annual Natchez Festival of Arts and in Park, Don Davis
 - 11 a.m. — Natchez is Southern's American Literature with Reception on Richard Wright.
 - 2 p.m. — The Natchez Trust in Natchez, Wright's "Native Son" by Michael Koppelman, Suzanne Mann, Peggy W. Brundage
 - 4 p.m. — Dedication of marker for Natchez Bluffs
 - 7 p.m. — Dinner at The Courtyard House with a reading by Richard Wright

Wright's honor long overdue, historian says



By MARCY RIVINUS
The Natchez Democrat

NATCHEZ — The late author Richard Wright will receive a long-overdue reward when a Mississippi Historic Marker is dedicated to him, the organizer of the dedication ceremony said.

"I don't think there's any doubt that he's the most famous writer that our area ever produced," said historian Miss Miller.

However, the state has not always appreciated Wright's portrayal of Mississippi, she said.

"I think it is interesting that both he and (American novelist William Faulkner) were denigrated by officials in Mississippi," she said.

"I don't think there's any doubt that he's the most famous writer that our area ever produced,"

— Miss Miller

Dr. Margaret Walker Alexander will be the featured speaker at a ceremony honoring Wright at 4 p.m. today on the Natchez Bluffs. The first event is one of the activities scheduled for the final day of "The Natchez Trust: Its Literary Legacy" celebration.

The public is invited, Miller said. The Holy Family Catholic Church gospel choir will sing.

Dr. Billy B. Thomas, president of Capital-Lincoln Community College; Philip West, president of the Adams

County Board of Supervisors; and Ken P'Pool, historic preservation officer of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History will attend.

Also attending will be William Winter, former Mississippi governor; Natchez Mayor David Armstrong; and George Dinkley, associate director for minority affairs at the Natchez Convention and Visitor Bureau.

The market, which will be placed on

the Bluffs during the ceremony, will read "Richard Wright, noted African-American author of 'Black Boy' and 'Native Son' was born in 1908 near Natchez, where he spent his early childhood. His lifelong quest for freedom led him to Paris, France, where he died in 1960."

Sponsors for the event include the Historic Natchez Foundation, the Natchez Historical Society, Capital-Lincoln Community College, the city of Natchez, the Adams County Board of Supervisors, the Natchez-Adams County Chamber of Commerce and the Natchez Convention and Visitor Bureau.

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James returning to Natchez

When D. Clayton James speaks about "The Role of the Natchez Trace in the Development of the Nation," he'll be reaching back to a book he wrote on antebellum Natchez more than 20 years ago.

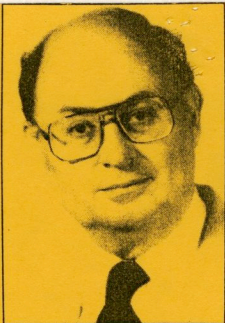
James will present his lecture at 11 a.m. Thursday.

James, who is the John Biggs Chair of Military History at Virginia Military Institute, wrote the paper for his doctoral dissertation while at the University of Texas.

"I really do not have that much connection with it now," he said.

James added that there are no true historians on the Natchez Trace.

"There is no great authority on the Natchez Trace," he said. "So anyone who speaks on the Natchez Trace is having to more or less explore new



D. CLAYTON JAMES is coming home

ground or go over what has been studied before."

The trace's history, he said, is full of myths and legends preferred by tourists and writers. The true stories still are being researched, he added.

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Rosalie's past echoes Natchez history

National landmark
grew from fort site

By JOEY MARTIN
The Natchez Democrat

Rosalie stands like a history book in every era of Natchez, from the Natchez Indians to modern times.

The majestic mansion has withstood Indian attacks, neglect and a Union army takeover during its existence.

The newest National Historic Landmark stands at the end of the historic Spanish parade grounds along the Mississippi River bluff and has been shown on Pilgrimage tours since 1931.

Also, the house adjoins the famous Fort Rosalie site, which is expected to become part of the Natchez National Historical Park when funding is approved.

In 1716 just south of the present mansion, the Frenchman Bienville created Fort Rosalie, named in honor of Rosalie, Comtesse de Pontchartrain. The fort was in an irregular pentagon, a primitive stronghold crowning the bluffs of the Mississippi River.

A little village sprang into being, and all went well until 1729, when the Natchez Indians attacked the fort and slaughtered the garrison and its citizens.

Following the French and Indian War, France ceded Natchez to Great Britain. Fort Rosalie was repaired and renamed Fort Pensacola by the British soldiers.

This era lasted until the later years

of the Revolutionary War when Spanish leaders and their troops occupied Natchez.

The Spanish left Natchez in the late 1790s and on March 20, 1798, the flag of the United States was raised over the ramparts of Fort Rosalie.

The Americans, however, used the fortress only a short time, vacating it in favor of a newer fort on the Spanish border.

Old Rosalie soon fell into ruins; the lands were eventually granted to Col. Henry Willis, an officer in the American Revolution and a cousin of Gen. George Washington.

The 22-acre tract later passed from Willis to his daughter and son-in-law, Nancy and Josiah H. McComas, who passed it on to Gamaliel Pease. Pease later sold the Rosalie land to Peter Little, the builder of the present mansion.

In 1829, Little sold one-half of the tract, retaining the other property on which the house was built. Little, who owned the fine sawmill in the Natchez Territory — the Leased Sawmill — spared no expense in building his fine new home.

Rosalie is a Georgian mansion designed by Little's brother-in-law, James Griffin. Gardens enhance the beauty of the house, especially a recently restored garden on the western side overlooking the Mississippi River and the lowlands of Louisiana.

Little and his wife, Eliza, had no children, but they reared Little's niece, Eliza Ann Griffin, who later became Mrs. Douglas L. Rivens.


Eliza Little preceded her husband in

death. Little died in 1836. The large estate amounted to almost \$1 million and was divided among several heirs, who sold the property to Mr. and Mrs. Andrew L. Wilson.

The Wilsons, like the Littles, had no children. They reared two children, Theodore V. Wessel and Fannie

McMurry, who later became Mrs. Stephen E. Rumble.

Stephen and Fannie Rumble had several children, the last of whom sold the property in 1938 to the Mississippi State Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.



THE NATCHEZ ART ASSOCIATION INVITES YOU TO A CELEBRATION

Sunday, 3 p.m., June 10
108 Commerce St.
THE NATCHEZ LITERARY LEGACY AND THE GRAND OPENING OF THE NATCHEZ INSTITUTE OF THE ARTS
featured speaker
MR. ROGER BETERIDGE, Derbyshire, England
The Royal Academy, Member of The President of Governors and Art
RECEPTION
In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Roger Beteridge
In Honor of Mrs. Carolyn Vance Smith
In Honor of Dr. Melvin Buckley
HOSTS AND HOSTESSES
Natchez Art Association
ILLUSTRATING THE BOOKS OF ELDORA WELTY
ORIGINAL PAINTINGS
courtesy of Brown's Fine Art & Printing, Inc., Jackson, Mississippi
The remaining works are offered for sale at this time
AUGUSTON Yaw Yarrow Pease, courtesy of Brown's Fine Art & Printing, Inc., Jackson, Mississippi
Owner's Collection, Natchez
PAINTINGS by Artist Members of the Natchez Art Association
THE SCHARFF COLLECTION
PHOTOGRAPHY—Mr. Harold Young, Retired Natchez Trace Photographer
Photographs of the Natchez Trace and works will be for sale.
STITCHERY Mrs. Laura Parks Quillen, Truly Dainty Glass Windows, Architectural Designs Of Natchez Victorian and Antebellum Homes

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MISSISSIPPI WEEKEND'S WINNERS



Eudora Welty: She'll speak at Natchez's literary fest.

Catch Welty's wise words

The Natchez Literary Celebration turns a new page today through Saturday as a series of lectures focus on the literary legacy of the Natchez Trace.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Eudora Welty of Jackson will be the featured speaker at the concluding banquet Saturday from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Other events include the nightly performance of Welty's *The Robber Bridegroom* at the Natchez Little Theatre playhouse. Tickets are \$10.

Lectures — featuring Jackson author Margaret Walker Alexander, Virginia Military Institute scholar D. Clayton James and curator of Washington's National Gallery of Art Douglas Lewis — will be held today through Saturday at the Eola Hotel. Other events include Friday's guided tour of the Trace, Saturday's autograph party and nightly parties at historic mansions.

For details, see a related story on page 1D in Southern Style, a schedule of events, page 5E, or call 445-6000.

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Natchez celebration traces its literary legacy

■ The three-day event is chock-full of events that dig right to the roots of history.

By Leslie R. Myers
Clarion-LEDGER Staff Writer

The Natchez Literary Celebration does highly literary Natchez, by name. "There will be the foundation they have drawn from some globally renowned authors."

"We're going to have some local stuff," celebration co-chairman Carolyn Vance Smith said of the week-end's diverse schedule.

This event — which runs today, Friday and Saturday — will honor and explore works by native Mississippi writers Eudora Welles, Margaret Walker Alexander, William Faulkner and Richard Wright.

Diversity is carried in 15 scholarly lectures, tours, historical dedications, an autograph party, dinners, a musical, poetry events and some historic surprises, Smith said.

This inaugural celebration's theme is "The Natchez Triumvirate Literary Legacy." It is sponsored by Copeland-Lewis Community College at Natchez, which will continue this an annual event, Smith said.

It was founded to increase public awareness of the Trium-

virate of the preeminent impact on American literature, from novels to histories, said Smith, English department coordinator at C.L.C.

It offers more than one-on-one experiences. "The fun of it is that we will get to go outside the Natchez Triumvirate in a real personal way and enjoy the same forces that inspired these authors," Smith said.

A major event will be the opening and dedication of the new Natchez National Historic Park by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Margaret Lonnie. The first piece of the park is 160 acres, an 1840s-era plantation, or 90 acres that is a National Historic Landmark. The National Park Service will run the park. The restoration is a benefit for the park.

The historic complex will surface in the historic hall. National Gallery of Art curator Douglas Lewis will reveal that many more of legendary artist John Constable's drawings in "The Study of America" were created in Natchez than was believed. It's likely to shake up Lewis and his patrons.

There's also a new chapter at the old White House. Have you seen President Andrew Jackson's morning routine in Rachel Donelson Robards' Natchez? Neither has anybody else.

Robert V. Remond, whose *The New York Times* calls "the world's foremost authority" on Jackson, will debate the legend that the couple was married in Springfield mansion in Natchez. He'll also talk of Jackson's childhood. Natchez business buildings and his look through ten-minute tour of the War of 1812.

The celebration is presented with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Historic Natchez Foundation, Natchez National Historic Park Foundation, National Park Service, Natchez Triumvirate Association, Natchez Historical Society and other groups.

Funding is from the National Endowment for the Humanities and Mississippi Humanities Council.

Tickets are \$200 for all events, all three days, \$50 for all events, one-day, and various options for single events. A few events are free. Tickets are fully tax deductible.

Reservations are required. Call 1-482-0000 or 1-800-888-7640 and ask for the literary celebration desk.

■

For more information, see *Mississippi Weekend*, page 28.

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Thursday, 7th

■ Natchez celebration this stage Mississippi author Eudora Welles leads an educational and cultural festival beginning today at 10:00 a.m. at the Natchez Daily Herald by Natchez and continuing through June 9. Features: tours from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. today. Cost for a full three-day package today is \$200. Single-day tickets range from \$100-\$150. For details, contact Carolyn Vance-Smith at 442-0011.

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Striking a grand and serene pose, magnificent Melrose, now part of the park service, stands in prime condition from front ...

B.R. Rascher/The Clinton Ledger

Welcome to your house

■ Stately Melrose has new owners ... the American people.

By Joe Rogers
Clinton-Ledger Staff Writer

NATCHEZ — A small group of visitors was touring Melrose, marveling at its 16,000-plus square feet, ogling its furnishings, when one asked a Park Service employee how the mansion had managed to survive the war.

"Which war?" responded the employee. "OK, there are a few bugs left to be worked out in the orderly transfer of Melrose to its new owners, the American people."

"We have a lot of opportunities here, it's a real exciting project," said Stuart Johnson, unit manager of the park.

What that means in effect is a lot of decisions have to be made regarding the future of Melrose and its new role as centerpiece for the Natchez National Historic Park.

Those decisions are as broad as putting together an overall management plan and as narrow as figuring how many people should be allowed on a tour and whether they can carry purses or camera bags.

It isn't so much that the Park Service fears parts of Melrose might be looted off by unscrupulous visitors. But items can get knocked over and broken.

"We have to think in terms that we've purchased this place and it will belong to the people of the United States in perpetuity," Johnson said.

It's a safe bet that the original owner didn't foresee such an eventuality for his home.

John T. McMurren, a Pennsylvania native, came to Natchez in the 1820s and soon became the law partner of John A. Quitman.

Originally rich, McMurren branching out as a cotton planter, Quitman built Monmouth and McMurren became his neighbor up the way around 1845 with the arrival of Melrose.

Jacob Byers — originally from Maryland — designed and built the home. Even in Natchez, the new digs created a stir. English-born architect T.K. Wharton, who visited in 1859, raved in his diary.

"Among the estates, that of General Quitman (Monmouth) was conspicuous but surpassing all, that of Mr. McMurren, looking for all the world like an English park, simple mansion of solid design in brick with portico and pediment flanked by grand forest trees stretching away on either side, and half embracing a vast lawn in front of emerald green comprising at least 200 acres through which winds the carriage drive — 'The place is English all over.'"

Byers' obituary in 1852 mentioned the Melrose connection, "by many considered the best edifice in the State of Mississippi."

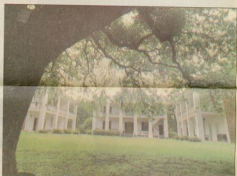
It had been named for Melrose Abbey in Scotland, perhaps owing to McMurren's Scottish ancestry, perhaps also to familiarity with the poetry of Sir Walter Scott.

His *Lay of the Last Minstrel* celebrated the abbey in 1806.

In 1865 the McMurrens sold Melrose to Natchez attorney George Malin Davis, like McMurren a Pennsylvania native. Davis made his own home at Choctaw in downtown Natchez, with visits to Melrose.

It became his daughter's Natchez home in 1878 and, after she died in 1883, passed to her 6-year-old son George Malin Davis Kelly. Kelly lived in New York with his father until 1901, when he returned as a bridegroom.

During the family's absence, former Da-



... to back and in all ways in between. The home was constructed about 1845 and now contains 16,000 square feet on 80 acres in Natchez.

age 92. Her daughter sold Melrose in 1976 to Natchez oilman John Callon.

The Callons launched a two-year restoration and preservation program before moving into the home. It was the Callons who sold the home to the National Park Service.

"We are extremely glad to have gotten it from owners who were so sympathetic," Johnson said.

But some of the decisions to be made involve how to turn what is essentially a home into a living museum.

Making it official

Melrose will be dedicated to the Natchez National Historic Park in a public ceremony on the grounds at 6:30 tonight.

Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan Jr. will give the keynote address. The Mississippi Symphony Orchestra will perform during the ceremony, held in conjunction with a three-day Natchez Literary Celebration. On Sat-

The Natchez Democrat

FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 1990

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Serving Natchez, Vidalia and the Mississippi

Natchez, Miss.

50 CENTS

Natchez gets a national park

Interior secretary will dedicate Melrose today

■ Lujan's remarks, page 1A.
By JOAN LAMBERT

The Natchez Democrat
NATTHEG — Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan Jr. will dedicate the Natchez National Historical Park at 4:30 p.m. today at Melrose.

All of Natchez is invited. The two events will feature remarks by Lujan and other visiting dignitaries, entertainment by the Jackson Symphony Pops Orchestra and more of Melrose.

The Greek Revival house, 19th-century mansions which it, numerous antebellum outbuildings and approximately 80 acres of park-like land make up the new Natchez park.

Today's dedication marks both an ending and a beginning, and Lujan in his remarks will refer to work done by Mississippi's congressional delegation in getting park legislation passed in 1980 and again in 1988.

"I especially remember back in 1980, when we were sitting in the House together, how passionate Tom Lott was in seeing that the legislation creating this park become law," a draft of Lujan's dedication speech says.

Lujan, a Republican like Lujan, represented Mississippi's 1st Congressional District before his election to the Senate in 1988.

The Natchez park was established in

the fall of 1988, when then President Ronald Reagan signed the legislation. A year later, President Bush signed the appropriations bill that included \$5.27 million for the Natchez park.

The Melrose property is the first park acquisition, however, and along the Natchez bluff where President John F. Kennedy in 1959 is reported to be included in the park when the funding is authorized.

Moreover, an amendment to the Natchez park bill was introduced this spring to authorize the purchase of the William Johnson House, a three-story brick house built on Rose Street by a free black man in the 1830s.

Lujan, a New Mexican native, arrived in the House for 20 years before his appointment as secretary of the Interior.

He was a member of the House Committee on Interior and Natural Affairs for 20 years and supported the idea of a Natchez park when then-senators passed legislation in 1988.

The National Park Service opened its Natchez office in January of this year, naming Stuart Johnson as park manager.

On May 15, the park service officially occupied the house in a ceremony that included officials from the House for Public Lands, which had been the Melrose property in 1988.



BEAUTIFUL MELROSE, with its many outbuildings and surrounding 80 acres, will be dedicated today as the Natchez National Historical Park. The Democrat photo by G. Bradley Booth.

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Lujan joins in Rosalie celebration

Antebellum house marks
Natchez's newest landmark

By KEITH BRITT
The Natchez Democrat

NATCHEZ — Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan Jr. dedicated the antebellum house Rosalie as a National Historic Landmark in a Thursday afternoon ceremony on the steps of the mansion.

"Obviously, I don't make every national landmark dedication, but I think this one is something special. Rosalie is authentic American in every sense of the word," Lujan told the crowd of more than 150 people. "We will preserve it because to see or talk can approach the value of being able to come and see Rosalie."

The dedication was held in connection with the Natchez Literary Celebration — "The Natchez Tree: Its Literary Legacy," sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College to benefit the Natchez National Historical Park Foundation.

Four and Eliza Lick built Rosalie in 1823. The house, which is one of the first mansions of its type in Natchez, was named for the former French lord that stood on a nearby hillside.

The house was purchased by the Mississippi State Society Daughters of the American Revolution in 1938.



MANUEL LUJAN talks about preserving the past at Thursday's Rosalie dedication

Ann O'Hare, historian of the DAR Rosalie Board, said the four columns in the front and back of the house are a gem. See LUJAN, Page 3A

Lujan

Continued from Page 3A

cedent for southern architecture in that period.

Gen. Ulysses S. Grant used the house as a headquarters for the Union Army during the latter part of the Civil War.

Catherine Prince of Natchez, a member of the Rosalie Board, said the dedication was the culmination of hard work by many people. Rosalie is the 11th National Historic Landmark in Natchez.

"This is something we've waited for for a long time," she said. "And we are pleased that Rosalie is officially a landmark. We believe that Rosalie is one of the most historical and beautiful homes in the country."

Lujan said Rosalie played an important part in American history and needed to be preserved.

"It is important that we keep the memory of our past alive. The deeds and ideals which have brought us this far must remain bright," he said. "We owe it to future generations to ensure that our children continue to learn the important lessons of their past."

He added the Department of the Interior is committed to preserving America's cultural heritage, history and the environment.

"In this fast-paced society of the 1990s, many people unfortunately are in such a rush to get where they're



FORMER GOVERNOR William Winter and his wife, Elise, talk with festival organizer Carolyn Vance Smith at Thursday's dedication of Rosalie. The Democrat/O. Bradley Bounds

going that they don't take the time to discern where they've come from," he said.

"But failing to understand the past is just like starting to read a book in the middle. You might comprehend the

words on that page, but you can't possibly appreciate their full context without knowing the first part of the story."

A picnic was held in the DAR Bicentennial Garden after the dedication ceremony.

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Speaker Remini amuses audience with tales of Andrew Jackson's life

■ *More lectures, page 3A.*
By MARCY RIVINIUS
The Natchez Democrat

NATCHEZ — Once upon a time in Natchez, a young woman was living in sin with a future president of the United States — or was she?

That question remains unanswerable, the nation's leading authority on Andrew Jackson says.

Robert V. Remini, a professor of history at the University of Illinois, gave the second lecture of the "The Natchez Trace: Its Literary Legacy," a three-day literary celebration sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Junior College. He spoke Thursday to an audience of some 200 people at The Natchez Eola Hotel.

In a speech interrupted by frequent laughter from the audience, Remini told many tales of "Andrew Jackson's Adventures on the Natchez Trace."

It is unknown whether Jackson married Rachel Donelson Robards, a woman from Kentucky, in the Springfield Plantation home near Natchez.

Remini said there is no proof that Jackson and Robards married in Natchez. He has searched for years and found no documentation of a wedding.

The couple may have been married by a traveling Protestant minister, he said.

One version of the story says that

Robards fell in love with Jackson and left her husband to travel to Natchez with Jackson. It is a mystery why she left her home and relatives, Remini said. Jackson left Robards in Natchez, he said, "possibly at Springfield," and returned to Nashville.

Then, after hearing that Robards' husband had filed for divorce, Jackson returned to Natchez and supposedly married her. However, the pair discovered two years later that the divorce had never been declared

officially, so Robards was considered to have been living in sin. She was later named innocent of wrongdoing.

Remini said, and re-married Jackson.

Remini is a famous Andrew Jackson historian who has written an award-winning trilogy on the seventh U.S. president and, in addition, about 20 other books.

"(Remini) is one of the few historians who has defined a field of history," David Sansing of the University of Mississippi said in introducing Remini.

Remini first became interested in Jackson when he was working on a

See REMINI, Page 3A

Events

Today's activities include:

- 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., exhibits at the Natchez Institute of the Arts, 108 S. Commerce St.
- 9 a.m., "Minorities and Their Use of the Natchez Trace," Kit Carter, Robert Jenkins.
- 10:30 a.m., "The Trace of the Old Southwest in *The Birds of America*: J.J. Audubon's Drawings and Writings from the Natchez District," Douglas Lewis.
- 11:30 a.m., "The Natchez Trace: A Treasure for America," Dale Smith.
- 2-5 p.m., Guided tour of the Natchez Trace
- 6:30 p.m., Dedication of Melrose to the Natchez National Historical Park
- 8:45 p.m., "The Robber Bridegroom," at Natchez Little Theatre

Friday, June 8, 1990

NATCHEZ DEMOCRAT, Natchez, Miss. *3A

Remini

Continued from Page 1A

doctoral dissertation about another president, Martin Van Buren, he said. His studies have never taken him to Natchez before, he said, but he has

visited many other towns. "Andrew Jackson has taken me all over the world," Remini said.

Jackson was involved in the trading of products and slaves, Remini said. He became angry when slaveholders who were traveling on the Natchez Trace were required to have passports for their slaves.

At different points in history, the Natchez Trace has been called Natchez Road, Nashville Road, Path of Peace and the Chickasaw Trace, Remini said. Jackson referred to it as the Natchez Trace. "From that time, the path has been known by no other name than the Natchez Trace," Remini said.

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Trace home to varied history

By MARCY RIVINIUS
The Natchez Democrat

NATCHEZ — "The Natchez Trace, whichever one you believe in — the real one or the mythical one — has become part of a very rich heritage," the opening lecturer of the Natchez literary celebration said Thursday.

D. Clayton James, a Natchez native and authority on military history, discussed the history of the Natchez Trace between the time of the American Revolution and the presidency of Andrew Jackson at "The Natchez Trace: Its Literary Legacy."

Many boat captains walked home on the Natchez Trace after piloting their boats down the Mississippi River, James said. "The way to get back up for these river boatman was, in part, the Natchez Traceway," James said. "Upward shipments were almost prohibitively expensive."

When the population and trade activity in the southern states began to increase, Trace traffic also increased. "It proved to be the heyday — the glory days for the Natchez Trace," James said.

The Trace was a victim of the Transportation Revolution, James said. "If

the steamboat marked the beginning of the end for the Trace, it was the Illinois Central Railroad . . . that guaranteed the Trace would never rise again," he said.

Clayton teaches at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia.

■ ■ ■

Former governor William Winter, who served as master of ceremonies for the event, said the Trace is actually a "story road."

"Today we talk about the pathway, but we will also be telling parables about it," he said. "What better place to talk about it than here on the banks of the Mississippi where it ended — Natchez."

■ ■ ■

Dr. John. D. W. Guice, the third speaker at the celebration, said fiction writers have tended to focus on bloodshed on the Trace.

"Maybe they have found the truth, while historians are still looking," he said.

Guice, a professor of history at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, spoke about "The Trace of Violence?" He is writing a book entitled "The Natchez Trace: Pathway

to Empire."

Stories about bandits and decapitation are common in literature, he said. He told bloody stories about fabled outlaws Big and Little Harpe, Joseph Hare, Samuel Mason and John Murrell.

Explorer Meriwether Lewis died in a cabin along the Trace, Guice said, and it is uncertain whether it was suicide or murder. "I tend to believe he may have been murdered," he said.

Natchez-Under-the-Hill also was considered a very evil place.

"The reputation of violence for Natchez-Under-the-Hill is transferred onto the Trace," he said.

■ ■ ■

Complicated thought processes lead people to designate certain objects as significant, said Jack Elliott, the final speaker of the day.

Elliott, historical archaeologist for the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, spoke about Fort Natchez and the origins of the Natchez Trace.

The Natchez town, fort, district and Trace are all interrelated, he said. "The founding of cities has loomed large in literature."

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Lujan to talk of park efforts, successes

Editor's note: Following is a draft of the speech Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan is expected to give at the dedication of Melrose as the Natchez National Historical Park. The public ceremony is 6:30 p.m. today at Melrose.

It's a great pleasure to be here in Natchez. It's good to be among so many old and new friends — Sen. Trent Lott, Congressmen Sonny Montgomery, Mike Parker and Jerry Huckaby. Former Gov. William Winter — and all the rest of the dignitaries too numerous to mention and private citizens as well.

I've always heard a lot about southern hospitality — especially from my former colleagues in the House, a number of whom are here this evening. But I never realized until now that southern hospitality must have originated right here in Mississippi.

And, I better add for the benefit of some folks here from across the river, I know Louisiana has a hospitality that's all its own.

I especially want to express my gratitude to Dr. Billy Thames and Copiah-Lincoln Community College for inviting us to make this dedication a part of your literary legacy program. I know that Mrs. Carolyn Vance Smith has done a great deal of work in organizing these events.

Last night I had the pleasure of seeing Miss Eudora Welty's play, "The Robber Bridegroom." And we are all honored to have one of our nation's most gifted literary figures, Mississippi's native daughter, here with us this evening.

Yes, this is certainly a beautiful plantation. And now that we're here to dedicate this place as part of the Natchez National Historical Park, under the Department of the Interior, I want to say that I think this would be a perfect place to designate as the official residence of the secretary of the Interior.

The only problem is that it would be a long commute to Washington, D.C. Of course, most of you probably think that's a big advantage — being 800 miles from Washington — and you're probably right.

This evening, we're here for a symbolic exchange of deeds, officially making Melrose a part of our national park system. Knowing that folks down here in Mississippi are kind of tied to tradition, I was half expecting that we'd have "Livery of Seisen."

That's the old English common law ceremony where a deed transferred when the grantor took a clump of dirt from the property and handed it to the grantee.

But I know that the process of bringing Melrose into our national park system has taken much more effort than just exchanging a clump of dirt. It required a successful partnership and the involvement of many concerned groups and individuals.

First, we owe our gratitude to John and Betty Callon, who purchased Melrose back in 1976 and have lovingly restored it to its original grandeur.

Apparently there are many stories that have come with the Callons' restoration work, but the one I think is most remarkable is the fact that a 100-pound cannonball was found at the bottom of

an outdoor stairway, with its fuse intact and loaded with enough dry powder to blow this place into Louisiana.

And the real kicker is that the cannonball was traced by the Army to a Yankee Navy cannon, which had fired it during the Civil War — or the War of Northern Aggression, as some down here say.

Now just imagine that one of only three owners of Melrose, Mrs. Ethel Kelly, lived in this house for 65 years, from 1910 to 1975, when she died at the age of 97. You've got to wonder if she'd have made it that long if she knew there was a live cannonball in her basement.

But this is just a part of the fascinating history of Melrose. And this story, and the tradition of antebellum Natchez, will be preserved in large measure because of a partnership between the Trust for Public Land and the National Park Service.

And I want to thank Doug Ferguson and all the others from the Trust for the care and commitment they have given this project.

The people of Mississippi can thank their senators and representatives for their commitment to the Natchez National Historical Park.

I especially remember back in 1988, when we were serving in the House together, how passionate Trent Lott was in seeing that the legislation creating this park become law.

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Trace a crown jewel in park service treasures

By KEITH BRITT
The Natchez Democrat

NATCHEZ — From the expansive Grand Canyon to the Blue Ridge Parkway winding through the Smoky Mountains, the National Park Service is filled with natural treasures.

And one of the jewels is the Natchez Trace Parkway, says Dale L. Smith, head of the parkway's interpretation and visitor services division.

Smith presented a slide show entitled "The Natchez Trace: A Treasure for America," Friday morning as part of the Natchez literary celebration sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College. He addressed an audience of about 200 people at The Natchez Hotel.

"These (national parks) are truly some of America's treasures," Smith said. "They are art galleries with frames — constantly changing masterpieces."

"They are greenhouses without glass. Arrangements made by a higher authority."

The Natchez Trace Parkway was established in 1938. Today, the highway traces the old route from Natchez to Nashville, Tenn.

The well-worn path was developed in the late 1800s. Men brought goods to sell in Natchez from the upper Mississippi River on flatboats. After selling the products, the flatboats were sold and the men began a 500 mile trek back home through woods, swamps and Indian territories.

"They would band together in groups and travel, stopping at Indian stands (small inns) to spend the night and eat," he said. "Most of the buildings had dirt floors."

However, by the 1820s the ease of making a spot on a riverboat made a good deal of flatboat worker traffic on the Trace.

Today the purpose of the Natchez Trace Parkway is to provide a recrea-

tional and historical area. The roadway meanders through the Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee countryside. The drive features cypress swamps, a tobacco farm, Indian mounds, nature trails, swimming spots and campgrounds.

The highway is closed to commercial traffic. The 50 mile-per-hour speed limit is used to allow travelers to relax and enjoy the surroundings.

Smith urged members of the audience to drive the Trace and stop at the sites such as Mount Locust just outside of Natchez. The renewed inn was the first stop for travelers leaving the river city.

"It flows like a stream and gives focus to the land," Smith said. "The Natchez Trace seeks to create a long lost chapter of American History."

■ ■ ■

The third lecture of the day dealt with minorities in the Natchez Trace history.

The true minority on the Natchez Trace between 1790 and 1832 was a group of "half-blooded" Scottish-Chickasaw Indians," says Kit Carter, a Mississippi University for Women history professor.

A Scottish lad named James Logan Colbert, 15, came to America in 1736 after a he participated in a revolt in Scotland. He was among many Scots who landed in Georgia.

Colbert became a trader and associated with the Chickasaw Indians in northern Mississippi. He joined in their tribal customs, marrying three wives.

He had four sons and began a dynasty of leadership among the Chickasaw. Despite being based in north Mississippi, Colbert traded with people as far away as the Bahamas.

The leadership ended after the United States government bought the last remaining Chickasaw land and the last son died in the mid 1700s.



DALE SMITH sees the Trace as a treasure for America. The Democrat/Keith Britt

Robert Jenkins, a history professor at Mississippi State University, spoke to the crowd about the role of blacks on the Natchez Trace.

He said very few blacks traveled the road as free traders. Most were moved up and down the path as slaves being brought into the South to be sold.

"The early black presence on the Trace was as slaves working in the

averns, inns and plantations," he said. "Slaves shackled would walk 20 miles a day when being sent South to Natchez to be sold."

Black soldiers fighting for the Union Army during the Civil War also traveled the Trace.

"Despite the dangers and consequences of their missions they fought," he said. "They were fighting to be free."

44-NATCHEZ DEMOCRAT, Natchez, Miss.

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Natchez celebrates

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Natchez celebrates

More
on the park
and literary
celebration

4-5A



The Natchez Democrat

SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 1990

Vol. 126, No. 137

Serving Natchez, Vidalia and the Mississippi

Natchez, Miss.

50 CENTS

Oh, what a day it was. . .



NATCHEZ CELEBRATES Friday at Malheur, where the house and its surrounding 80 acres were dedicated to the Natchez National Historical Park before a lively crowd of about 1,000. The Democrat photo by G. Bradley Smith.

Melrose begins new era as national park

By KEITH BRITT

The Natchez Democrat

NATCHEZ — As the Friday afternoon sun set on antebellum Melrose, a chapter of history came to a close and a new era began.

Friday marked the end of 145 years of private ownership of Melrose and its estate and the formal beginning of the Natchez National Historical Park.

More than 1,000 people gathered on the Melrose front lawn to witness the official dedication of the house to the national park. The dedication was held in conjunction with a three-day literary celebration, "The Natchez Trail: Its Literary Legacy."

"Natchez, this is your big day," Gov. William Winter said to open ceremonies. Winter, president of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History Board of Trustees, presided at the dedication.

Local, state and national dignitaries mingled; U.S. and state senators, representatives, mayors, presidents of universities, and famous authors such as Barbara Woltz and

Margaret Walker Alexander were on hand to take part in the historic occasion.

Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan Jr. spoke of the importance of maintaining symbolic parts of American history.

"Melrose is not just another pretty place. It is part of our past. The Gothic architecture tells an important story of the Old South," he said.

"And we stand here today to dedicate this as a historical treasure. It is important to preserve our past such as Melrose, Rosalie, Jefferson, Military College and other grand landmarks in this country."

The National Park Service formally purchased the house from John and Betty Calhoun on May 15. The house, 12 outlying buildings and about 40 acres of landscaped gardens and forests are open to the public daily for tours.

It marks the beginning of a national park to celebrate and preserve Natchez's rich and varied history.

As Lujan ended his speech, he

See MELROSE, Page 5A



INTERIOR SECRETARY Manuel Lujan Jr., left, and U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran of Mississippi tour Melrose after the ceremonies.

Melrose

Continued from Page 1A

edified of the old English mansion in which a landowner passed a chunk of his own to the new owner as a symbol of deed exchange.

However, the Calhouns didn't use a piece of soil from the Melrose lawn in the exchange. Instead, the couple presented the National Park Service with a small porcelain replica of Melrose.

"This is wonderful for this area. It's

just like a building block, and this is the first one in establishing the future for southwest Mississippi," said U.S. Rep. Mike Parker, D-Miss. Parker, along with other state congressmen, has been instrumental in getting funding for the national park.

U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., said seeing the park become a reality is exhilarating.

"It's a great day for Natchez and also a great occasion for the entire state of Mississippi," he said. "It is all going to be preserved for years to come. And it's going to be a focus for tourism and

enrich our own lives."

U.S. Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., said the first step of establishing the park is finally complete and work has already begun to expand the park by adding the Fort Rosalie site. Congressional hearings are under way for a \$4.4 million request to buy the site and continue developing the park.

"Now all we've got to do is complete the developments and make the rest of the world aware of what we have here," he said. "I think we will get the most out of money, and Manuel Lujan's being here is a boost"

The dedication ended with a Mississippi Symphony Pops Orchestra performance. During the performance, the sounds of "Old Man River" and "Tara's Theme" from the film "Gone With the Wind" wafted through the air, taking audience members back to the days when cotton was king in Natchez.

Winter closed the ceremony by saying, "Your house is open."

And, with that, crowds of people exited the house and ended the evening with an old-fashioned garden party in the rear courtyard of Melrose.

Saturday, June 8, 1990

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Ceremony receives rave reviews for hospitality

By MARCY RIVINIUS
The Natchez Democrat

NATCHEZ — In an evening filled with praise, celebration and southern hospitality, a crowd of more than 1,000 people gathered Friday with numerous dignitaries and the John Callon family to dedicate Melrose.

After offering guest speaker U.S. Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan a standing ovation, the crowd sat quietly and listened to the strains of familiar Southern melodies presented by the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra.

Later, throngs of people spilled onto the lawn of the 80-acre estate to talk with friends and strangers. A stream of people waiting for a house tour extended from the Melrose door while, in the back yard, others celebrated with food, drink and conversation at a garden party. Praise for the ceremony was bountiful.

"It was to-the-point and had all the aspects of a wonderful ceremony," said Zoe Wood.

"I really enjoyed the music," said Ginny Robinson, a member of the Natchez Art Association.

"It was very American," Dorothy Ogden said.

Helen and Gerald Simonton said they were impressed by the long list of dignitaries who spoke at the event. Helen said she had received a

special invitation. "I've been a friend of the Callons all my life."

"I thought it was beautiful," said Ceille Wilson of Vidalia, La. "It will be a good step for Natchez."

People from other states will have added incentive to visit Natchez now, she said, because Melrose will be open year-round, instead of just during Pilgrimages.

Wilson's husband, Herschel, said he is happy Melrose is a part of Natchez history. "I'm proud of it. It's a pretty place." He predicted it will take a few years for the tourist trade to live up to people's expectations because, "They're expecting quite a bit out of it."

Sherri Hardin, a soprano from Copiah-Lincoln Community College who sang the "Star-Spangled Banner" at the end of the ceremony, said the national exposure will encourage tourism. She said she especially enjoyed the way the symbolic exchange was handled. "To me that was truly Natchez."

Not everyone at the ceremony was from the Natchez area.

Mary Ann Smith and her husband, Gerald, are from Waco, Texas, and were invited to the dedication when they visited the Mississippi Welcome Center.

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Rave

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"I think it was great. We're just happy that we were invited," she said.

Jane Hubben, from the area near Sarasota, Fla., said she has attended most events of the literary conference and is enjoying her visit to Natchez.

"It's fascinating and stimulating," she said. "It's so much more intimate and friendly."

Regardless of where they came from, however, everyone said they enjoyed the dedication.

Perhaps Billy Williams of Natchez summed it up best when he said, "It was history that we all should remember."

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Natchez celebrates



Moments to remember at historic dedication

EMILY SMITH assists with refreshments for the garden party following the park dedication.

EUDORA WELTY, Mississippi's Pulitzer-Prize-winning author, at the ceremony



D PAGE, long-time Metrose tour guide, entertains a crowd inside Melrose, including Mississippi's U.S. Sens. Thad Cochran, left, and Tom Lott, right, both in dark suits.

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MISSISSIPPI SYMPHONY'S conductor Robert McNally and the pops musicians entertain the crowd with southern favorites on the grounds of Melrose Friday. The Democrat/photos by G. Bradley Bounds

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OPINION

EDITORIALS

History

Melrose becomes park centerpiece

Natchez has been celebrating the rich history and literature of Mississippi this week, and it's a celebration in which all Mississippians should be proud.

The Natchez Literary Celebration began Thursday, and has explored the literary legacy of the Natchez Trace. Eudora Welty, who has used the Trace as the setting for several short stories and a novella, is scheduled to read from her work at the concluding banquet today.

The festivities included a major addition to the state and also to all of the people of the United States with the dedication Friday afternoon of Melrose mansion to the country's newest park, the Natchez National Historical Park.

The new park, with Melrose, provides a major anchor attraction to the wonderful resource of the Natchez Trace Parkway.

There are a lot of people who worked hard to acquire Melrose, including the Mississippi congressional delegation, the Callon family, which owned it, and state and city officials. But, Mississippians also owe gratitude to a national non-profit organization, the Trust for Public Land.

The Trust for Public Land, headquartered in San Francisco, negotiated an option with the owners to remove Melrose from sale on the open market and worked for the congressional appropriation and final purchase by the National Park Service.

This group and others, including the Nature Conservancy and state and local groups, are doing a public service in preserving our natural, historical and cultural resources. These are the places that help make Mississippi special. Historic and natural preservation should be encouraged and supported.

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Interior secretary lauds historic homes

■ Manuel Lujan Jr. participated in the dedication of antebellum Melrose

The Associated Press

NATCHEZ — Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan Jr. participated Friday in the dedication of the antebellum Melrose estate as part of the Natchez National Historical Park.

The plantation was sold to the U.S. Park Service by Natchez oilman John Callon. Callon bought the plantation in 1976 and spent two years restoring the home. Melrose was built about 1845 and has 16,000 square feet. It sits on 80 acres.

The park service paid nearly \$5.2 million for the Greek Revival-style antebellum home. The Callons donated 25 percent of the \$7.1 million appraised value.

Thursday, Lujan dedicated the antebellum house Rosalie as a National Historic Landmark.

"Obviously, I don't make every national landmark dedication, but I think this one is something special. Rosalie is authentic Americana in every sense of the word," Lujan said during the ceremonies. "We will preserve it because no text or talk can approach the value of being able to come and see Rosalie."

The dedication was held in connection with the Natchez Literary Celebration sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College to benefit the Natchez National Historical Park Foundation.

Peter and Ellen Little built Rosalie in 1823. The house was named for the former French fort that stood on a nearby hillside.

Gen. Ulysses S. Grant used the house as a headquarters for the Union Army during the latter part of the Civil War.

SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 1990 4A

Melrose the beginning of good things to come

A national park now is open for visitors in Natchez at the spacious house and grounds known as Melrose.

With the dedication of the park on Friday, Natchez and the state of Mississippi have every reason to stand a little taller and brag a little longer.

More work lies ahead to enlarge the park, rounding out both theme and scope.

We have an excellent beginning.

Melrose is not only the most important historic house in Mississippi. It ranks among the most historic houses in the United States.

Historians, architects and other authorities of national reputation for many years have praised the high quality of the 1845 villa's architecture.

But there is more: for instance, furnishings within the house — placed there generations ago by original owners.

Then, too, there are remaining on the grounds all the original outbuildings that rose on the site when the house was built nearly 150 years ago — in beautiful condition because of the stewardship of the families who have lived there.

Melrose is a museum. It is a window to the way wealthy planters lived in Natchez in the days when many of them made their fortunes in cotton grown across the Mississippi River in the fertile flat Louisiana land.

It is the house former Director of the National Park Service William Penn Mott described on a visit to Natchez as the proper one "to interpret the culture of this part of the country."

Mott envisioned at Melrose an opportunity to interpret black history, river history and agricultural history in the antebellum South. He was a friend to the park efforts throughout the last year of his term as park director.

Now Congress is considering more funding for the Natchez park as well as an important amendment that would add the William Johnson House as property to include in the park.

The push must continue, and it must be a grassroots effort. The acquisition of Melrose is simply a beginning. The Natchez National Historical Park has the potential to be the most unusual and exciting park of its kind.

We all play a part in its future.

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extra photos of
Longwood
party

1990 party
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Alexander explores Wright's influences

Upbringing planted seeds of anger, biographer says

By LEONARD KRANSDORF
The Natchez Democrat

NATCHEZ—Richard Wright grew up in a community torn by racism and stories of death. And that upbringing planted a seed of anger in him that was intertwined in his writing for years to come.

That was the picture painted Saturday by Wright biographer Margaret Walker Alexander as she addressed the audience at "The Natchez Trace: It's Literary Legacy" at The Natchez Eola Hotel and later in the day, when she helped dedicate a historical marker in honor of Wright on the Natchez

bluffs.

"He wrote out of a realistic anger at what had happened around him," Walker said. Born in Adams County, Wright had only five years of recorded education, Alexander said.

"You know he had to be a genius to be able to do what he did with the limited education," she said.

When he traveled to such places as Memphis, Tenn., New York and Chicago, Wright took with him the memories of the lynchings and racism he had seen and heard about in his early years, Walker said.

"I like to think of Wright as a novelist of ideas. He wrote about life," said Alexander, who first met Wright in Chicago when they were members of a writers group.

Alexander said she believes Wright's

writing reflects more of the realism of the South at that time and contradicted several myths which had developed.

"In several books slavery was romanticized and was portrayed as being benign and beneficial," she said.

In fact, though, many slaves were treated poorly by their owners, she said.

Writings of the time also overlooked the fact that it was through the work of slaves that many of the antebellum homes were built in the area.

"The English and French designed the buildings, but they only designed them," she stressed.

One of the questions asked of Alexander was if Wright was a happy man. She said she believes the only time he was ever truly happy was when his first child was born.

It was this unhappiness that was one of the reasons he decided to leave the United States in 1947 for Paris.

"When he left this country racism was driving him crazy and many people were upset when he left to Paris," she said.

Alexander said she also believes Wright had an effect on the life of Martin Luther King Jr.

Wright and King had a 24-hour meeting early in King's career and Alexander said she believes Wright stressed the need for non-violence over violence as a means of change.

And Alexander said the ideas of Wright will live for years to come. "He leaves a proud legacy to family, friends and children."



MARGARET ALEXANDER speaks at the Richard Wright memorial on the Natchez bluffs.

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John & Vera
Callon



Marion & Carolyn Vance
Smith



mimi Hins



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extra photos of
Glen Mary
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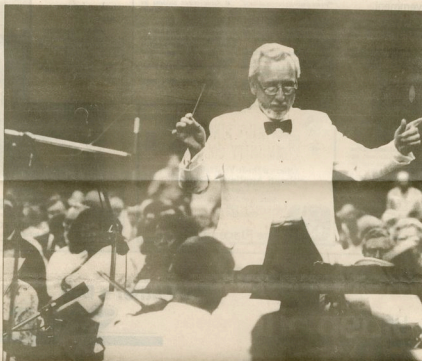




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Moments to rem at historic dedica

EUDORA WELTY, Mississippi's Pulitzer-Prize-winning author, at the ceremony



MISSISSIPPI SYMPHONY'S conductor Robert McNally and the pops musicians entertain the crowd with southern favorites on the grounds Democrat/photos by O. Bradley Bounds

